

الوقت



At least 40 dead in Bogota blast

BOGOTA (AP) — A truckbomb exploded during rush hour Wednesday morning in downtown Bogota, killing or injuring hundreds of people, destroying stores and damaging the federal police headquarters, officials said. The Colombian radio network, RCN, quoting police sources and checking with hospitals and clinics in the area, said 40 people had been killed, Health Minister Eduardo Diaz told the Caracol radio network that 250 people had been injured seriously and 700 received minor wounds in the blast, which tore a large crater in the street and left mountains of rubble. No one immediately claimed responsibility, but suspicion fell on drug traffickers who have bombed the nation's cities repeatedly in an effort to stop the government from extraditing suspected cocaine smugglers to the United States. The truck, rigged with dynamite, exploded at 7:30 a.m. (1230 GMT) in front of the headquarters of the department of administrative security, Colombia's federal investigative police, the report said. The explosion occurred less than 24 hours after the government said a bomb placed aboard a Colombian airliner had caused it to crash shortly after takeoff from Bogota last month, killing all 107 people aboard (see page 5).

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New Cabinet sworn in

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Prime Minister Mubarak Badran Wednesday announced a 24-member Cabinet, separating three ministries and merging four ministries into two, and retaining six ministers from the government of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker. The Cabinet, which includes 10 serving members of the Lower House of Parliament, was sworn in at the Royal Palace Wednesday evening. In addition to the six serving ministers, the Cabinet includes at least three others who have served in former governments and several technocrats as well as liberal/moderate "Islamists."

Badran retained Salem Masadeh as deputy prime minister and minister of interior, Marwan Al Qasem as deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Basal Jarrah as finance minister.

Ibrahim Izzeddine, minister of state for Prime Ministry affairs under Sharif Zeid, was moved to the Ministry of Information; Ibrahim Ayyoub, minister of supply, was named minister of transport

and telecommunications, and Planning Minister Ziad Fariz was appointed minister of trade and industry.

Among former ministers in the Cabinet are: Abdul Ra'ouf Rawabdeh, a Lower House member who has served as minister of health and mayor of Amman in previous governments, was appointed minister of public works and housing; Awai Al Mas-

ri, a former public works minister, was named minister of planning to succeed Fariz; Mohammad Addoun Al Zaben, a former telecommunications minister and currently a member of the Lower House, was assigned to head the Ministry of Health.

Among other Lower House members in the Cabinet are: Youssef Mideen (Karak) handling the justice portfolio; Ibrahim Ghababeh (Tafleh) heading the Ministry of Youth; Abdul Baqi Gammo (Zarqa) as minister of state for parliamentary affairs; Abdul Karim Dughmi (Mafraq) as minister of municipal affairs and the environment; Abdul Karim Kabariy (Aqaba) as minister of tourism and antiquities; Abdul Majid Shreideh (Irbid) to head the Ministry of Labour; Qasem Obaidat (Irbid) as minister of labour; Ali Faqr (Amman) as minister of Awqaf and Islamic affairs.

Mohammad Hamdan, president of Yarmouk University, was named to head the Ministry of Education which was absorbed the Ministry of Higher Education, Nabil Abdul Huda, head of the Civil Contractors Corporation, was named minister of sup-

ply, Khaled Al Karaki, a university professor and dean of students affairs, was named to handle the Ministry of Culture which was separated from the Ministry of Information, Thabet Al Taher, director-general of the Arab Mining Company, was named minister of energy and mineral resources; Daoud Khalaf, under-secretary of the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, was named minister of water and irrigation; and Suleiman Arabiyat, dean of the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Jordan, was named minister of agriculture.

None of the ministers is from the Muslim Brotherhood, which claims 21 seats in the Lower House of Parliament.

Sharif Zeid

King Hussein Wednesday appointed outgoing Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker as chief of the Royal Court and special advisor on armed forces affairs.

The King paid tribute to Sharif Zeid's honesty and described him as a man who is "ready to offer sacrifices at all times." He praised the ex-prime minister's efforts and services to the country over the past months.



His Majesty King Hussein with the new cabinet headed by Mubarak Badran (Petra photo)

Badran pledges to implement King's policy directives

AMMAN — Prime Minister Mubarak Badran Wednesday pledged to implement the policies and programmes outlined by His Majesty King Hussein in his letter of designation.

Presenting his 24-member Cabinet to the King, Badran said he was honoured to lead the government and serve the King and the Jordanian people.

"Your letter of designation will serve as a guideline for the government which will cooperate fully with the legislative authorities in order to carry out its task," Badran said in a reply message to the King.

The government hopes to translate the King's directives

into programmes in the process of discharging its duties and win the support of the King and the citizens, Badran said.

The government will give priority to the economic situation, will carry out economic reform programmes, seek an increase in production and promote marketing of national products, he said.

The government hopes to build up foreign currency reserves, boost the exchange rate of the dinar and pay off the foreign debt, Badran said.

The prime minister pledged that the government will conduct its business in the implementation of the principles of the Great

Arab Revolt, maintain a policy of moderation and remain committed to the principles of the Arab League and the Non-Aligned Movement.

The government will ensure democratic freedoms, bolster the strength of the law and ensure responsible freedoms, support and strengthen the armed and security forces to safeguard the Arab Order, he said.

The government will be committed to Arab causes and support the Palestinian people's right; it will be committed to the Arab Cooperation Council and its business in the implementation of the principles of the Great

Lower House elects panels

Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Heavy lobbying and drawing-out voting and revoting procedures characterised the third regular session of the Lower House of Parliament Wednesday as the four permanent parliamentary committees were formed at the end of a seven-hour meeting.

House Speaker Suleiman Alar'at deputies to "please allow the Parliament to function in the most practical way possible" after two hours were spent voting for would-be members of one of the four permanent committees. At 4 o'clock the 78 attending deputies unanimously agreed to divide the 80 parliamentary members among the four committees equally. So that each deputy would be able to serve on one permanent committee. The deputies had taken a vote at the beginning of Wednesday's session to put a limit to the number of members on each committee to 20.

Deputies Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh and Thousan Hindawi said they had no desire to serve on any one of the permanent committees, and were thus excluded from the formation of the committees.

As a speaker, he also excluded himself from committee membership.

The four permanent committees are legal, financial, administrative, and external or foreign affairs. Speakers for each committee are expected to be elected in Sunday's session at the House.

The committee members are as follows:

Legal committee — Majed Khaleel, Abdul Munem Abu Zant, Fares Nabulsi, Mohammad Abu Fares Ahmad Al Kafali, Abdul Latif Arabiyat, Ibrahim Khreisat, Mohammad Fares Tarawneh, Kamel Al-Omari, Anter Al Bataineh, Youssef Al Mubaiden, Nayef Abu Tayeh, Mohammad Al Murrar, Abdul Karim Al Dughmi, Nayef Murrar Al Hadid, Hussein Mujalli, Hisham Al Shari, Salim Al Zubi, Hassan Saeed and Abdul

Kelly briefs King on outcome of Malta superpower summit

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein was Wednesday briefed by a U.S. envoy on the Malta summit between President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

John Kelly, assistant secretary of state for Near East and South Asian affairs, told Jordan Radio and Television he had given the King a detailed account of the Malta talks, which included Middle East issues.

"I had the honour of meeting with His Majesty on the instruction of my president. President Bush, who has sent me to visit the important nations of the region to give a first hand report of the subject of the discussions between President Bush and Presi-

dent Gorbachev in Malta last weekend," he said.

"The American and Soviet leaders did discuss the Middle East and did acknowledge that in their press conference following the Malta meeting, and I had the honour of informing His Majesty of the substance of the detailed discussion between Gorbachev and President Bush in Malta, and I received the benefit of His Majesty's views on that process," he said.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Kelly also briefed the King on efforts for peace in the Middle East and to settle the Lebanese problem and the Afghan dispute.

The audience was attended by

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Deputy Prime Minister Marwan Al Qasem, in addition to the American ambassador in Amman and a delegation accompanying Kelly.

Earlier, Shar' Zeid received Kelly and discussed with him the latest developments in the region and bilateral relations.

Kelly and the accompanying delegation left Amman later Wednesday.

Kelly has already briefed Israeli and Egyptian leaders on the outcome of the Bush-Gorbachev meeting.

U.S. says Egypt conditionally accepts Baker proposal for talks

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Egypt has formally accepted U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's five-point Middle East peace initiative which aims to convene groundbreaking direct Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, the State Department said Wednesday.

"We're pleased to announce that we have now received from the government of Egypt a positive response to Secretary Baker's five-point framework," said State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler.

Egypt has been mediating between the United States and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in order to gain acceptance of the blueprint which aims to pave the way for Palesti-

nian elections in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Tutwiler said Egypt had also conveyed "certain views and positions on this process" which amounted to conditions under which acceptance was given but declined to spell these out.

Israel accepted the five points last month but added several conditions which it called "assumptions." The main ones were that the PLO would not have a role and that talks would be limited to the question of elections and would not discuss the final status of the territories.

Baker tabled his five points in October after the Israeli cabinet rejected a previous Egyptian proposal aimed at getting talks under way.

Tutwiler said the State Department was to publish the five points later Wednesday. She said the expected Baker to meet in Washington with the foreign ministers of Egypt and Israel early next month to advance the process.

Tutwiler said Egyptian acceptance was a "positive step" but there were still many more steps that needed to be taken to get Israeli-Palestinian talks underway.

Earlier, Egypt's foreign minister said Wednesday that Cairo has sent to Washington its reply to the U.S. proposal.

"The Egyptian government's reply has been sent to the U.S. government," Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Megid stated,

Hrawi threatens to quit if Aoun does not go

ABLAH, Lebanon (Agencies) — President Elias Hrawi threatened Wednesday to resign unless he won control of the presidential palace in east Beirut from General Michel Aoun.

"I did not come to the presidency to become a president who will consolidate partition," Hrawi told Reuters and the international television news agency Visnews in his makeshift office at a Lebanese army barracks 42 kilometres east of Beirut.

"I have come to restore Lebanon's unity and extend the sovereignty of the government over Lebanese territory," he said. "If there is a scheme which is greater than me, let them find someone else."

"When my patience runs out with all the mediation and when I exhaust my capabilities I will issue a statement to all Lebanese and apologise. I will tell them 'this is your actual situation,' and leave."

Hrawi, a Syrian-backed Christian, was elected 12 days ago. He said foreign mediators had asked him not to use violence to break

Aoun's control of the Christian enclave.

He said he had received letters from presidents George Bush, Mikhail Gorbachev and Francois Mitterrand and from Arab states asking him for time to solve the crisis peacefully and he hoped they would succeed.

"I am against war and operations which disrupt peace and cause death and destruction," Hrawi said, but added that patience had limits and he might wait a few days or two weeks.

Syrian forces, Lebanese troops loyal to Hrawi and militiamen have been poised for a week for an attack to seize the palace in the Christian enclave, which Aoun holds with 15,000 mostly Christian troops.

Hrawi said in other interviews published Wednesday that he was giving mediators up to two weeks to persuade Aoun to leave the presidential palace peacefully, or face a military onslaught.

He disclosed that predominantly Muslim units of the army, under the newly appointed commander, General Emile Lahoud,

already were preparing a contingency invasion strategy.

In another interview published by the Kuwait daily Al Qabas, Hrawi said: "I prefer to reach the Baabda palace carrying an olive branch, but otherwise it will be by the cannon."

"I have instructed the new army commander Gen. Emile Lahoud to prepare himself for entering east Beirut. Lahoud is currently touring barracks for ending this abnormal situation," Hrawi said.

As the political deadlock dragged on, soldiers loyal to Aoun clashed for a second day with Syrian-backed militias along confrontation lines in Beirut and the hills above.

Muslim leaders, meanwhile, called for a general strike Thursday to protest Aoun's attempts to partition Lebanon.

A statement by the so-called Nationalist Front, a loose alliance of Muslim and leftist factions, urged "all of Lebanon to take part in the peaceful strike tomorrow to say no to partition."

Israelis destroy homes, impose ban on Hussein

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli army Wednesday demolished three houses of Palestinians, and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said the uprising may last "another year or two."

The army also barred a leading Palestinian activist, Faisal Al Hussein, from entering the occupied West Bank or Gaza Strip for six months, the army said.

Hussein, who lives in Arab Jerusalem, is regarded as a top supporter of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Although jailed for 18 months in the uprising, Hussein also has been invited several times to meet Israeli officials to express Palestinian views.

An army announcement gave no reason for the order, but a military official who spoke on condition of anonymity said Hussein was involved in "incitement against the authorities, against the army."

In the West Bank city of Nablus, six protest marches involving hundreds of people were organised when the army relaxed for two hours a curfew that it clamped on the city Friday, Palestinian reporters said.

Eight people were shot and wounded in clashes with soldiers in the city's old market and the

nearby Balata refugee camp, according to hospital officials. One victim was a 14-year-old boy shot in the back, the officials said.

Hussein told Reuters: "We believe all Israeli attempts to hamper and obstruct our efforts to achieve our goals will fail. Our determination to free our land from the occupation is stronger than any Israeli border."

But in a conciliatory statement, he added: "The task of the intifada in its third year will be to reach out to the Israeli public... to achieve peace."

His confinement appeared aimed at disrupting the organisation of the revolt, but diplomats said it could also harm U.S. efforts to engage Palestinian leaders in talks with Israel on elections in the occupied territories.

In the Gaza Strip, hundreds of Jewish settlers protested against the government's agreement to allow 5,800 Palestinians stranded in Egypt to rejoin their families in Israeli-occupied Rafah.

The settlers accused the PLO of training the Palestinians to foment protests, once they move into Gaza.

Boycotting jobs and classes, they demonstrated near the Rafah neighbourhood where Israel began resettling the Palestinians separated from their families

when a 1979 treaty with Egypt shifted the border.

Israel moved the Palestinians in the early 1970s from Rafah to the adjacent Canada camp, a former peacekeeping post, because of overcrowding. Under the treaty, Israel returned the campsite to Egypt but agreed to reunite the families in Gaza.

Five Palestinians, the first of 480 family heads expected to cross during the next several weeks, passed through the barbed wire border to Rafah Wednesday and reviewed plans with Israeli engineers for building new houses.

Inside Rafah, troops clashed with stone-throwing Palestinian protesters and a 15-year-old was shot in the leg by a plastic bullet, residents said.

One of the five Palestinians from Canada camp, 24-year-old said Nofal who was born in Rafah, told Reuters: "This is our country... and we are committed to this country."

The five will stay with family in Rafah for two months by agreement of both Israel and Egypt. Their families will join them when the houses are built.

Some 3,000 Jews live in Gaza Strip settlements scattered among 650,000 Palestinians.

Krenz quits; non-Communist takes over

EAST BERLIN (Agencies) — President Egon Krenz resigned Wednesday and was replaced by Manfred Gerlach, a non-Communist, Gerlach said state television.

It was the first time a non-Communist has held the nation's top government post.

Under previous Communist governments, the post of president had been largely ceremonial, but it was unclear whether the presidency would have a more important role in the current turmoil shaking the country.

The government later appealed to the nation's citizens for calm and said there were indications that army installations had been stormed in a mounting reprisal against abuses of the former hard-line leadership of Erich Honecker.

"In the last few hours, there have been growing indications of storming of facilities and installations of the national people's army," the government said in a statement distributed by the official news agency ADN.

It did not specify where the assaults might have taken place or say how many people were involved. The government statement called for "calm and restraint."

Crowds of citizens already have been surrounding and in some cases forcing their way into secret police buildings in an effort to stop the destruction of documents needed in prosecuting officials of the former leadership.

The Communist Party scheduled an emergency congress for Friday to revamp its structure after two wholesale leadership changes in the past seven weeks.

ADN said the congress, the movement's supreme organ, would discuss reports on the crisis in the party.

It would move towards a "complete restructuring of the SED (Communist Party) into a modern socialist party."

The 25-strong reformist working group has proposed the congress vote an entirely new leadership team to guarantee the Communists still have an equal say in the political changes needed in the country.

"The party congress must complete a clear break with the Stalinist system and with its monopoly on power and abuse of position," it said.

How long the congress lasted would be up to the delegates.

On Oct. 18, Krenz replaced Honecker as Communist Party chief and began implementing reforms designed to stem a growing pro-democracy movement. Reforms included previously unthinkable actions as allowing unrestricted travel to the West, stripping the constitution of provisions guaranteeing the Communists the leading role in society and promising free elections.

Gerlach said he would serve as president until the parliament elects a permanent head of state.

Reflecting the political crisis in the country, Gerlach said he was "not happy" about taking on the new duties.

Meanwhile, the entire defence council, also headed by Krenz, resigned. The council com-

mands the armed forces.

Krenz has now resigned all his posts. He quit as Communist Party chief Sunday, along with ruling politicians and the entire central committee.

A temporary committee of reformers was set up Sunday to run the party until it holds the special congress.

Krenz had been the target of growing criticism, both within the party and among opposition groups.

A one-sentence ADN dispatch gave an official reason for Krenz's resignation, although Krenz had been virtually without power since stepping down as Communist Party general secretary.

ADN also said an amnesty had been declared, but gave no other details.

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Bush, Gorbachev fail to break new grounds on Afghanistan

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev have failed at their weekend summit meeting to break new ground to end the fighting in Afghanistan between the Marxist government and Muslim rebels, U.S. sources said.

The key sticking point was said to be the future of Najibullah, the Afghan president.

Gorbachev, the sources said, insisted that the Soviet-backed Najibullah retain power and maintained that Najibullah is a national figure whose popularity is growing.

Bush, however, was said to have demanded that the Afghan president step down because the U.S.-backed guerrillas refuse to deal with him in working out a settlement of their 11-year war.

The dispute, which the sources said surfaced in an exchange between Bush and Gorbachev Sunday, stood in sharp contrast to the mostly positive results of the ship-board summit.

A parallel disagreement over Central America was disclosed by Bush and Gorbachev at a concluding news conference, with Bush telling reporters, "I can't say there are no differences between us."

Bush made no direct reference to Afghanistan but rather noted differences over Soviet arms supplies to rebels in El Salvador. Regional conflicts have proved to be the most resistant to U.S.-Soviet reconciliation.

The head of the U.S.-backed Afghan resistance, Sibghatullah Mojaddidi, met with Bush before the summit and said he wanted new anti-aircraft weapons to use against Soviet bombers.

He also expressed the hope that Bush would tell Gorbachev to drop Soviet support for the "puppet regime and the Com-

muist government," in the Afghan capital of Kabul.

The Soviet Red Army rolled into Afghanistan in December 1979 to support a Marxist government against Afghan guerrillas in a war that had broken out a year earlier.

The last of the Soviet troops were withdrawn in February, but U.S. intelligence sources claim Moscow has increased aid to Najibullah's government to \$300 million to \$400 million a month.

Secretary of State James A. Baker complained about continuing Soviet arms shipments to the Afghan government at a meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in September.

The Soviets responded that the United States, by sending the guerrillas a reported \$500 million in arms annually via Pakistan, was violating the Geneva accords signed last year to secure the Red Army's withdrawal from Afghanistan.

U.S. humanitarian aid to the rebels and refugees in Afghanistan and Pakistan amounts to \$130 million a year. U.S. officials decline to acknowledge on the record that any U.S. arms are being sent to the insurgents.

The guerrillas control most of the countryside but have made little military or diplomatic progress since the Soviet withdrawal. The government's staying power contradicts the predictions of many officials in the Bush administration that the government

army would disintegrate and Najibullah would be driven from power in short order.

At the summit, Bush told Gorbachev that Najibullah must relinquish power before there could be a political settlement of the Afghan war. Bush described Najibullah to Gorbachev as "unacceptable" and said "he has to go," the sources, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said.

Gorbachev responded that Najibullah is a national figure and is gaining popularity with the Afghan people, the officials said.

Heavy fighting continues

Meanwhile heavy fighting was reported Tuesday in northern Afghanistan between the government troops and U.S.-backed rebels, despite the onset of winter weather.

Western diplomatic sources in Islamabad said the insurgents may have overrun as many as 18 government military posts near the city of Mazar-i-Sharif, 60 kilometres south of the Soviet border.

They also confirmed an earlier rebel report of increased fighting around the strategic eastern city of Jalalabad, the scene of the first guerrilla offensive following the completion of a Soviet troop withdrawal last February.

"In previous years, winter weather has significantly impeded military operations, especially, north of the Hindu Kush," mountains of north eastern Afghanistan, said one source on condition of anonymity.

"According to the latest information, however, significant fighting continues in the north, especially near to Mazar-i-Sharif in Balkh province," the source said.

There were no reports of casualties, but diplomats said rebel dispatches claimed that a

dominant resistance group in the area took between 15 and 18 government posts about 30 kilometres north of the city on Nov. 24.

Mazar-i-Sharif is the most significant government-held city in northern Afghanistan and lies just west of the Salang Highway, which is the main overland umbilical between the Soviet Union and Kabul.

The diplomats confirmed a guerrilla report Monday that the rebels killed an Afghan army general and lost three key rebel commanders in recent fighting around Jalalabad.

However, diplomats and rebels alike denied government claims that a new offensive was under way there.

"There's been a bit of fighting, but both sides appear to be launching probing attacks to reinforce their positions," said a diplomatic source.

"There apparently is no overall battle plan to these operations," he said.

Meanwhile, Afghanistan's state-run radio Tuesday reported that government troops had crushed a rebel network operating inside the Afghan capital.

The radio report said 100 members of the Hezb-i-Islami rebel group, led by radical Islamic fundamentalist, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, were arrested following a series of raids throughout the capital.

A spokesman for the rebel group, based in Pakistan, denied any of its members had been arrested.

However, the spokesman, who refused to be identified, said his organisation had received reports that government troops arrested 300 people. But he said none was affiliated with the hardline fundamentalist rebel faction.



The guardians of the intifada brandish knives and axes in the combat

2 years of intifada — death, anger and bitterness

NABLUS, occupied West Bank (AP) — The stone plaque calling the Yasmina quarter the "Neighborhood of the Two Martyrs" has not kept pace with the anger and bitterness built up in two years of the Palestinian uprising.

The neighbourhood of 6,000 Palestinians, crowded into the old marketplace known as the Casbah, now has 14 "martyrs," men and teenage boys shot by Israeli soldiers along the narrow streets.

Yasmina has seen all the many sufferings and the few small triumphs of the "intifada," the uprising that began on Dec. 8, 1987, to demand Israel end its occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Flag-waving demonstrations, stones, firebombs and the killing of suspected collaborators have been common in Yasmina, Arabic for the fragrant jasmine flower.

The Israeli response has been tear gas, gunfire, arrests, the demolition of houses. The latest example came Dec. 2 when soldiers shot to death four men blamed for killing fellow Palestinians accused of collaborating with Israel.

Some Palestinians and Israelis question whether the uprising is losing its steam after two years of suffering with no real political gains. But in Yasmina, the talk is of defiance, revenge, carrying on the battle for a Palestinian state.

"We don't want the blood of our sons to go for nothing," replied Yusra Al Masri, 42, when asked if the revolt will persist. On the wall opposite hangs a blurry enlargement of a family snapshot that shows her son, Bashir, who died at age 20. "He was trying to throw two firebombs," she said

matter-of-factly.

Another son and a son-in-law are in jail, accused of taking part in the uprising, Mrs. Masri said. She complained angrily of dozens of visits by Israeli soldiers to question her other five sons.

Pulling her youngest son, 3-year-old Fuad, close to her, Mrs. Masri said: "I hope he will grow up and avenge the death of his brother."

It's uncertain how much the defiance expressed by Mrs. Masri and others in Yasmina is mere bravado. One former Nablus policeman, long familiar with the Casbah, was asked if residents were not worn down by the long revolt.

"They are tired, of course, but I'm not sure they admit it even to themselves," he replied, asking that his name not be used.

After two years, there is reason for weariness. The Palestinian economy, never well-developed, has been further hurt by the three-hour store openings and almost weekly general strikes ordered by the PLO-backed leaders of the uprising.

By army estimate, more than 40,000 Palestinians have been arrested and at least 8,900 injured in the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza. Palestinians say the numbers are higher.

In Nablus, with a population of about 100,000, the death toll from Israel is 66 in the past two years.

Throughout the West Bank and Gaza, where 1.7 million people live, 625 Palestinians have been killed by Israelis, at least 154 others have been slain by fellow Arabs as suspected collaborators.

Sudanese rebels foresee war

NAIROBI (R) — Sudan headed for a new round of bloodshed Wednesday after peace talks collapsed and rebels accused the government of declaring war by bombing a rebel-held town.

Lam Akol, senior commander of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), told Reuters Sudanese jets pounded the southern town of Waat Tuesday. He had no details of casualties.

"Omar Hassao Al Bashir (Sudan's military ruler) has declared war. He has followed up his tough words against us by bombing Waat. We will have to defend ourselves," Akol added.

The bombing of Waat, confirmed by Western diplomatic sources, was the second on an SPLA-controlled town since fresh fighting erupted between the two sides at the end of October.

Before then there had been a six-month lull in the conflict when both sides declared a series of unilateral ceasefires.

The aircraft attacked Waat on the day peace talks between Sudan's ruling junta and the SPLA, to try to end the six-year-old war, collapsed in the Kenyan capital Nairobi. The talks were chaired by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

"The bombing confirms what we thought would happen if negotiations failed," a Western diplomat in Nairobi said. "Each side will want to show it is still strong."

Carter told journalists after the failure of the six-day talks that the main stumbling point had been whether Sharia, Islamic Law, should be suspended if the two sides agreed to a ceasefire

and to hold a conference to chart a new national constitution.

The SPLA, fighting to end what it regards as domination of largely Christian and animist southern Sudan by the Muslim north, had also maintained its demand that Sudan's defence pacts with Libya and Egypt be abrogated, he said.

"It is necessary for the people of Sudan and other nations to know clearly these minimal reasons for the continuation of the devastating war. Neither side came to Nairobi prepared to take the difficult steps necessary for peace," Carter added.

The first round of talks between the SPLA and the military government in Ethiopia in August also foundered on the future of Sharia, introduced six years ago but largely dormant.

Palestinian group denies link to Pan Am suspect

DAMASCUS (AP) — A spokesman for a Palestinian guerrilla faction said Wednesday that his group severed its connections with a suspect in the 1988 bombing of a Pan American Airways Jumbo Jet long before the incident.

Khaled Abdul Majed, political member of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front told the Associated Press in an interview that Mohammad Abo Talib, 35, left the group in 1982. "After that he had no relation with the front," Abdul Majed said through a translator.

2 years of uprising scars the face of Gaza

GAZA (R) — Two years of Palestinian uprising and Israeli repression have scarred the ugly face of the occupied Gaza Strip, pockmarking with army camps, roadblocks, defaced or demolished buildings and torn-down walls.

The revolt first erupted in Gaza's Jahalaya refugee camp on Dec. 9, 1987, after four Arab workers returning from jobs in Israel were killed in a collision with an Israeli truck which Palestinians co-opted themselves was deliberate.

A pressure-cooker hursting with 650,000 Palestinians, mostly poor refugees, the Gaza Strip exploded in an orgy of tyre-burning and stone-throwing. The insurrection spread only gradually to the occupied West Bank.

"They've turned this place into one big armed camp," said Abed, 21, pointing out new army tent camps, surrounded by giant mounds of sand, that have sprouted like mushrooms along the teeming strip's main highway.

Gaza was always grim, now it is hideous. The physical changes are striking. Troops have sealed off numerous side-streets and some of the city's main roads with tall barricades of concrete-filled barrels.

They also sealed most entrances to the Strip's eight refugee camps, making it easier to control entry and exit. Military observation posts crown nearly all tall buildings.

On Gaza City's main Omar Al Mukhtar Street, the metal and concrete debris of ruined apartment over a shopfront is a reminder of the army's policy of demolishing buildings from which Palestinians throw petrol-bombs at soldiers.

Many city walls still bear the scars of an army campaign to erase nationalist graffiti by spraying whole streets with zig-

zag patterns in black tar. Street lighting has been another casualty of the uprising. Palestinians have shattered almost every light in the city to make it easier for groups of masked youths to ambush army patrols, evade detection and write wall graffiti at night.

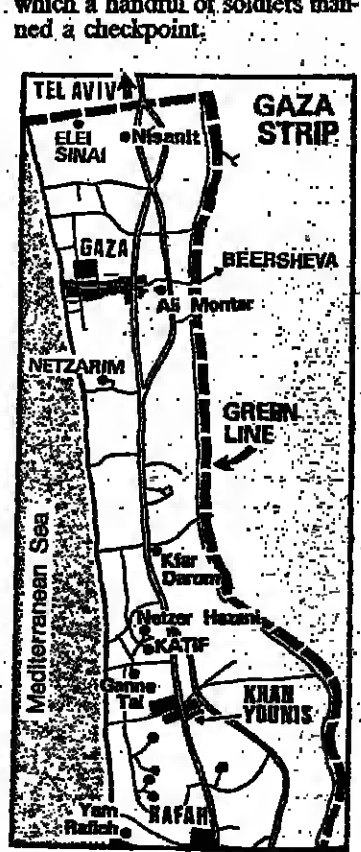
There was a time when every slogan etched on army orders was repainted the following night. But residents say many walls now remain white-washed, testimony to the fatigue of the population and the effectiveness of army undercover units which arrest or shoot masked activists under cover of darkness.

The commandeering of Arab cars for use in army undercover operations is a frequent sight. On Tuesday, soldiers on Omar Al Mukhtar Street stopped half dozen drivers of the most common Peugeot car, forcing them to leave their vehicles with the keys and licence papers.

Palestinians say they usually recover the cars the following day from military headquarters. To stop children stoning troops from behind high schoolyard walls, the army has forced the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) to demolish the walls and replace them with fences.

The changes begin at the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel. Once marked by a few barrels, a watchtower and a tent from which a handful of soldiers manned a checkpoint.

The changes begin at the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel. Once marked by a few barrels, a watchtower and a tent from which a handful of soldiers manned a checkpoint.



Turkey to dry up Euphrates temporarily to fill Ataturk Dam

ISTANBUL (R) — Plans by Turkey to make the mighty Euphrates River run dry for a month threaten the water lifeline of downstream Syria and Iraq.

But they have maintained official silence on the issue, apparently hoping that through diplomacy and goodwill they can avert hardships to millions of people.

"We have to cut the water for a month. There can be no debate about this," Turkey's Public Works and Housing Minister Cengiz Altinkaya said.

Ankara said last week it would

completely cut the river's flow for a month from Jan. 13 to fill the giant Ataturk Reservoir, 60 kilometres upstream from the Syrian border.

The Euphrates, Syria's biggest river at several hundred feet across, is vital to its economy. It is also important for Iraq, where it merges with the Tigris and flows into the Gulf.

Iraq's ambassador to Turkey, Tareq Jawad, said the three countries had just ended talks in Damascus on Turkey's plan. "We are evaluating (it) and there has been no official statement," he

said. The Ataturk Dam, 170 metres high, will help to irrigate an area of south east Turkey bigger than East Germany and will produce 2,400 megawatts of hydroelectric power.

To make up the shortfall in water supplies, Turkey offered to increase the flow of the Euphrates across the border, which it regulates, by 50 per cent between Nov. 23 and Jan. 13.

"Our neighbours must store the extra water we are giving," Altinkaya said.

Foreign Ministry spokesman

Murat Sungar said Turkey would restore the flow to its normal 500 cubic metres per second after Feb. 13.

He said the meeting in Damascus was not confrontational. "They (Syria and Iraq) don't have any objections and they can't object" to the plan under international law, he added.

Jawad said: "People will be affected, but from goodwill and direct contacts we understood that they (Turkey) will keep up the supply."

Turkey had already cut the flow of water into Syria because

of a drought. Diplomats said a shortage of water in the Assad Dam near Aleppo in north Syria had affected irrigation and hydroelectricity output.

Ankara warned earlier this year it might cut the flow of the Euphrates, saying that separatist Kurdish guerrillas were launching attacks into Turkey from bases in Iraq and Syrian-controlled east Lebanon.

But Turkish officials and Jawad said the Ataturk Dam plan was a separate issue. "We want to cooperate with Turkey in security issues," Jawad said.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
17:10 Book of Adventure
18:00 News for the Deaf
18:20 Religious programme
19:00 Jewish programme
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Local series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Local programme
22:20 Arabic film
23:00 News in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Le Monde et vous
19:00 News in French
19:15 Anjouer 'Tat on France
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Guinness Record
21:10 Bird of Prey
22:00 News in English
22:20 Feature film

PRAYER TIMES

6:56 Fajr
06:18 (Shrine) Doha
11:27 Dhuhur
14:13 'Asr
16:36 Maghreb
17:58 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetish
Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel.

632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
637440.

The St. Sallie Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 623366
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel.
628543.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel.
771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.
775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Assiut International Church Tel.
627981, 685326.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.
811235.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-
Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 645932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of
Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy to cloudy
with expected scattered showers in the
central and northern regions. Winds
will be westerly moderate to fresh. In
Agaba, winds will be northerly moder-
ate becoming southerly fresh with
rough sea.

Amman Min./max. temp.
Agaba 3 / 11
Dhuhur 7 / 17
Deir el Zor 2 / 12
Jordan Valley 6 / 16

Yesterday's high temperatures: Am-
man 12, Agaba 18. Humidity readings:
Amman 51 per cent, Agaba 34 per
cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Abbas Al Hakim 891256
Dr. Abdul Rahman Jafar 775050
Dr. Yousef Al Hourani 625478
Dr. Yabba Abdul Rahim 736074
Fins pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 64045
Stimex pharmacy 637660

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630441
Civil Defence Emergency 139
Rescue Police 152, 611111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 826390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 602800
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Ann 644281/6
Khaldi Maternity, J. Ann 644282/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Matina, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, St. Joseph 664171/4
Stimex Hospital 669131
University Hospital 843945
Al-Musader Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abadi 666127/87
Al-Ahli, Abadi 664164/6
Bab al-Jabal, Al-Mohajir 77101/3
Al-Basim, J. Ashrafiah 775111/26
Army, Marja 891611/25
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Queen Alia Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
IBRD:

Complaints

Amman Municipality 897467

Complaints 787111

Telephone Information
(directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone
Reprints 623101

Abdull Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power
Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-33200

Queen Alia Airport 08-33200

Princess Basma Hospital

(02)275555

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275

Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)247100

AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal
Jordanian (RJ) information depart-
ment at the Queen Alia International
Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it
should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

04:45 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
09:00 Damascus (RJ)
09:15 Agaba (RJ)
09:30 New Delhi (RJ)
09:45 Bangkok (RJ)
09:55 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)
10:00 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
16:15 London (RJ)
16:30 Larana (RJ)
17:00 Baghdad (RJ)
18:10 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:30 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
18:30 Bangkok (RJ)
19:45 Rome (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:10 Sanaa (LH)
10:00 Baghdad (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:00 Agaba (RJ)
10:45 Rome (RJ)
12:00 London (RJ)
12:15 Paris (RJ)
12:30 Larana (RJ)
13:00 Baghdad (RJ)
15:00 Amsterdam (RJ)
19:00 Cairo (RJ)
20:30 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:45 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
21:15 Bangkok (RJ)
21:30 Jeddah (RJ)
21:30 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:00 Damascus, Paris (AF)
10:10 Frankfurt (LH)
11:00 Baghdad (LA)
13:40 Riyadh (SV)
14:50 Bahrain, Muscat (GF)
15:00 Kuwait (KU)
15:30 Ankara

Queen Noor attends Jordanian fashion show

AMMAN (J.T.) — In a new scheme initiated by Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), and inaugurated by Her Majesty Queen Noor's interest to develop a Jordanian "Haute Couture" industry with a view to encouraging Jordanian products and limiting the country's need of imported clothes, a collection of locally designed and manufactured fashions were shown at the Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental Wednesday.

The collection included women's classical wear and a variety of outfits for children between the ages 8 to 10 in what could be a pilot project to set in motion a local high fashion garments industry.

The function, attended by Her Majesty Queen Noor, was accompanied by a performance of classical Arabic music played by children of the National Music Conservatory to celebrate His Majesty King Hussein's Birthday.

Proceeds of the show, which was organised by the management of the hotel, will go to support the NHF projects.



Society gets new equipment

AMMAN — Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped Monday received physiotherapy equipment, donated by the British embassy in Amman to help the society provide physiotherapy services to the physically handicapped. Receiving the gift from the British ambassador to Jordan was Her Highness Princess Majda (Petra photo).

'Best new bluegrass band in America' visits Jordan

AMMAN (USIS) — Musical tours are nothing new for the members of Union Station, a four-member bluegrass ensemble led by 18-year-old Alison Krauss. Everyone in the group, named the "best new bluegrass band in America" in 1986, has travelled and played throughout the United States.

Now their horizons are expanding, as they leave North America for the first time and undertake a Middle East tour for the United States Information Agency.

The group's tour includes stops in Pakistan, Syria, and Tunisia as well as in Jordan. Union Station will give three public performances, under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Ra'ad Ibn Zaid, during its December visit to Jordan.

The group will perform at the Philadelphia Hotel in Amman Friday, Dec. 8; at Yarmouk University Sunday, Dec. 10; and at the Salt Cultural Centre Monday, Dec. 11.

The group will also give a presentation on bluegrass music to students of the National Music Conservatory, Saturday, Dec. 9.

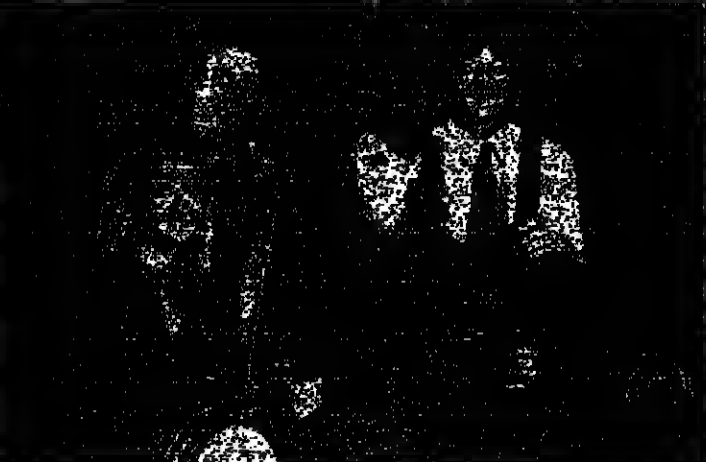
Proceeds from the group's public concerts will be used for the benefit of member charities of the General Union of Voluntary Societies.

Although not yet out of her teens, Union Station leader Alison Krauss has been hailed as one of the most accomplished and promising bluegrass musicians in the U.S. She began her musical studies at the age of 5, with classical violin.

Her teachers introduced her to bluegrass — a lively style of country music marked by complex and improvised solos played on string instruments — as a way of encouraging her to practice.

Krauss responded with enthusiasm and talent that surpassed anyone's expectations, and before long she was taking breaks from school to perform and compete in fiddle (bluegrass violin) contests, both in her home state of Illinois and elsewhere in the United States.

Her first solo album, recorded when she was fifteen, firmly established Krauss as a master instrumentalist, as well as one of the outstanding female vocalists on the contemporary bluegrass scene.



Alison Krauss (second from right) and the three other members of Union Station

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An exhibition of paintings and etchings inspired by Arabic Islamic art at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.
- ★ An art exhibition by artists from Jordan and other Arab countries at Al Wasiti Gallery, Pasha Hotel.
- ★ An art exhibition by Ghassan Al Hameed, Abid Atwan and Abdullah Nawashdah at the Jordanian Plastic Artists Association, Shmeisani.
- ★ An art exhibition of water colours by Jordan artist Ahmad Ismail at the Gallery, Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental.
- ★ An exhibition organised by the Goethe Institute entitled "The Blue Rider" at the Jordan University of Science and Technology, Irbid.
- ★ A book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition which includes publications on the Palestinian issue at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ A photographic exhibition, held on the 150th anniversary of the invention of photography, by Karine and Demitrov at the Soviet Cultural Centre.
- ★ A photography exhibition on French poet de Prevert at the French Cultural Centre.

CONCERT

- ★ A concert by the YWCA's troupe at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

FILM

- ★ A Soviet film entitled The Fountain at the Soviet Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

Prince Hassan opens seminar on development, environment

Crown Prince blames Israeli practices for draining Arab resources

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday said that the Israeli practices against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories had not only reflected negatively on the life of the Palestinian citizens and the Arab resources in the occupied territories but also on the neighbouring Arab countries.

Addressing the opening session of a two-day seminar on development and environment, Prince Hassan said the Arab-Israeli conflict has borne the Arab countries new responsibilities for addressing environment problems, thus jeopardising the quality of life and even survival itself.

In his opening speech, Prince Hassan stressed that the challenge facing the development and the environment was posed by the international community itself.

However, he noted, the social and environmental dimensions during the last decades have had their great effects on the development plans in Jordan.

Prince Hassan noted that Jordan had worked hard to strike a balance between its limited resources and natural resources on the one hand and the population pressures on the other.

He said that the pressures on Jordan were caused by Israeli policies aimed at evicting the Palestinians from their homeland. Consequently Jordan has provided means of decent living and social services to the Palestinians taking refuge in Jordan.

Prince Hassan added that the population explosion, which took the form of forcible immigration, had affected the environment in a number of the region's countries. The effects of such forcible

immigration, caused by the Israeli practices, is still visible in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, where hundreds of thousands of people were evicted from their land and took refuge in the neighbouring Arab countries.

"The disputes in the Middle East, just like any international dispute, drain large amounts of money, which are being used for financing procurement of weapons, which have undermined development achievements," the Crown Prince noted.

Prince Hassan pointed out that the West blames the responsibility for the environment degradation on the developing world, accusing it of overexploitation of resources, while the fact is contrary to that.

"It is the Western world which is to blame for the environmental pollution because of its overexploitation of these resources for carrying out nuclear tests, achieving industrial and technological advances and draining of the va-



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday opens a 2-day seminar on development and environment in Amman (Petra photo)

rious natural resources.

"It is therefore the responsibility of the whole international community to rally its efforts in a serious endeavour to protect the world's environment and to put an end to the threats to mankind."

Prince Hassan noted that Jordan directs special attention to the protection of the environment.

Jordan's interest in this regard has been demonstrated in King Hussein's personal involvement and participation in the Hague conference, which culminated in

the Hague Declaration and an international agreement on the environment.

Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Yousef Hamdan said: "Our world has to curtail its development resources and to redirect such resources to projects aimed at protecting the environment."

He praised the global efforts being made to prevent environmental degradation caused by the overuse of natural resources.

Addressing the session were also the director of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Egyptian

minister of international cooperation, and the director of Stockholm Institute of Environment.

Taking part in the seminar are a number of experts and representatives from Arab and foreign countries, in addition to Arab and international organisations.

The conference is organised by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, in cooperation with the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, the Stockholm Institute of Environment, the Arab Thought Forum and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.

Jordan to attend ALECSO meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the five-day conference of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO) due to convene in Cairo Saturday.

The conference will discuss the organisation's proposed budget for the year 1990/1991 and the subjects proposed by the member

states for discussion at the ALECSO general meeting.

The conference will also discuss analytical studies and reports on literary and adult education in addition to a number of recommendations made by the educational conferences held in the years 1987 and 1988.

The conferees will elect mem-

bers of the executive board and appoint a member to serve on the disciplinary board.

The Jordanian delegation will be headed by Talal Sata'an Al Hassan, Jordan's ambassador to Tunisia and its permanent representative to the Arab League.

The ALECSO executive board Monday approved the organisation's budget of \$19,800,000 for the coming period and allocated \$500,000 for the organisation's programmes in each of Jordan, Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, South Yemen, Sudan and Somalia.

At the conclusion of its meetings, the board voiced support for the proposals made by the Palestinian delegation to include the "Palestine question" in the educational curricula of the various Arab countries and decided to list these proposals on the organisation's 10th general conference to be held in Cairo.



Lawzi receives Saudi, Spanish envoys

AMMAN — Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi Wednesday received Saudi Ambassador to Jordan Fahd Al Issa who congratulated him on his appointment as speaker and wished him continued success. Lawzi also received the Spanish ambassador's congratulations during a separate meeting.

Lawzi Wednesday received a congratulatory cable from Secretary General of the Parliamen-

tary Union Abdul Rahman Sourani on his appointment as speaker. In his cable, Sourani praised the efforts Lawzi exerted in entrenching Arab parliamentary action and wished him success. The speaker Monday received a cable from the South Yemeni President Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas, thanking him for his congratulatory cable on the declaration of the unity between both North and South Yemen. (Petra photo)

Arab ministers praise Palestinian uprising

TUNIS (Petra) — Council of Arab Social Affairs Ministers Monday voiced pride in the Palestinian uprising and pledged full support for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories in their struggle to liberate the Palestinian soil, secure their rights to repatriation and self-determination and to establish their independent state.

At the conclusion of their meetings here, the ministers denounced the Israeli practices against Arab citizens in the occupied territories and appealed to

all nations to help force Israel to put an end to its crimes against the Palestinian people and to respect the international resolutions and agreements.

The council also adopted a number of decisions designed to enhance common Arab work in the field of social development and to support the activities of the Arab Fund for Social Work.

The decisions also addressed issues pertaining to women and children, and called for developing the programmes benefiting the disabled.

U.N. fact-finding team to arrive next week

AMMAN (Petra) — A United Nations fact-finding team will arrive in Amman next week on a several-day official visit to Jordan, during which they will meet with Jordanian officials.

The team assigned by the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, to look into the situation of Palestinian women in the occupied Arab territories groups three ladies in addition to a consultant from the United States and an official from the United Nations Women Advancement Section.

In preparation for the team's visit, the Palestinian Affairs De-

partment at the Foreign Ministry has worked out in cooperation with United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) a programme of visits for the team.

The programme reflects the Jordanian government's interest in exposing the Israeli occupation authorities' policies, designed to uproot the Palestinian families, Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Wednesday.

The programme is also aimed at enabling the team to obtain first hand information on the pressures exercised by Israel against the Palestinian women.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

SPECIAL LAW FOR THE DISABLED: Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ad Ibn Zaid Monday stressed the need for implementing the provisions of a special law passed recently on the disabled. Addressing a technical committee, entrusted with preparing the necessary regulations for the implementation of the law Prince Ra'ad called for drawing up special regulations, exempting items benefiting the disabled from customs duties and other fees. (Petra)

LOWER HOUSE WELCOMES YEMEN UNITY: The Lower House of Parliament Monday welcomed the unity of both North and South Yemen and voiced hope that this national event will serve as a good start on the path of achieving the long-sought greater Arab unity. In two cables the House Speaker Sulaiman Arar sent Monday to the leaders of North and South Yemens, President Ali Abdullah Saleh and President Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas, he congratulated them on their historic decision to unite the two parts of Yemen. (Petra)

WINNERS OF KORANIC COMPETITION: Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Hamzeh Ibn Al Hussein the Ministry of Awaqaf and Islamic Affairs will hold a celebration Thursday at King Abdullah Mosque to honour the winners of the National Koranic Competition. The competition was organised by the ministry as part of the Kingdom's celebrations of Prophet Mohammed's Birthday and the Birthday anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein. Some 500 competitors took part in the competition. (Petra)

IRAQI TEAM ARRIVES: A delegation representing the Iraqi Ministry of Local Administration arrived in Amman Wednesday within the framework of cooperation, coordination, and exchange of expertise among the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries. During its four-day visit, the delegation will be briefed on Jordan's expertise in the field of local administration, particularly with regards to legal aspects that define the activities of local councils. Furthermore, the delegation will meet with a number of local administration officials and visit touristic and archaeological sites in Jordan. (Petra)

U.K. T.V. CREW IN AQABA: A British television crew arrived in Aqaba Monday on a photography mission in Aqaba gulf. The team will film marine life, corals and other archaeological and cultural sites in Aqaba. The team will also visit Wadi Rum and a number of archaeological sites in Jordan. (Petra)

تحت رعاية سمو الأمير الحسن

جمعية الحسين لرعاية وتأهيل المعاقين

يعتزم لضيوف البازار السنوي في فندق عمان ماربريت

يوم الاثنين 17/12/1989

الساعة العاشرة والنصف صباحاً

ساعات خاصة: زينة لحمار اليدود الجيد - اشغال يدوية

هدايا - كاتينج

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS SARVATH

THE AL-HUSSEIN SOCIETY FOR THE EDUCATION AND REHABILITATION OF THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

INVITES YOU TO ITS ANNUAL BAZAAR

AT THE AMMAN MARRIOTT HOTEL

SUNDAY, THE 17TH OF DECEMBER, 1989 AT 10:30 A.M.

INTERNATIONAL BAKE SALE

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

HANDICRAFTS

GIFT ITEMS

SPECIAL CAPE

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

Editorial Director:

RAKAN AL MAJALI

Director General:

DR. RADI AL WAQFI

Editor-in-Chief:

DR. WALEED M. SADI

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department.

Tribute where it is due

AS the country welcomes Prime Minister Mudar Badran and expresses deep confidence in his abilities to conduct the affairs of government, it is most fitting and appropriate to bid farewell to the outgoing Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and express to him the gratitude of the Jordanian people for all the things that he and his colleagues have done to the Kingdom during a very difficult and trying period. Suffice to recall in this context that on the eve of Sharif Zeid's takeover of premiership, the country was in deep economic and fiscal woes that were quickly transformed into serious political problems the like of which the country had not encountered before. It was Sharif Zeid's special style, characterised by his gentle and soft, yet effective and persuasive, approach to the quagmire that the country was in, that helped rejuvenate Jordanians' confidence in the ability of the country to reverse the tide and regain the right course once again.

First and foremost Sharif Zeid's approach was non-confrontational at a time when emotions ran high. This helped a great deal to absorb the anger and anguish that many Jordanians bore as a consequence of the economic and fiscal hardships that hit the country with a vengeance. Without breaking many bones and without resorting to harsh and intimidating policies, Sharif Zeid succeeded where many others would have failed. He turned the country around in a smooth and soft manner. It is enough to record at this juncture how his incorporation of new policies and men in his government, in a calm and subdued style, has assisted the Kingdom to emerge from all the economic and monetary woes with flying colours. Above all it was Sharif Zeid's ability to instill confidence in the Jordanian people that things were never as bad as some had maliciously portrayed them that can best pay tribute to the man and leader.

This is not to mention the fact that Sharif Zeid presided over a momentous national elections that won the applause of all Jordanians as well as the international community. Jordan, as a result of these elections, has entered a new era that has rightfully been described as the hallmark of the democratisation process in the Middle East. True governance has now become more difficult as the political ground rules that existed from the elections made the political equation more complex. Yet this has always been the price of development and there is no escape from it.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i on Wednesday attacked the United States for its attitude at the United Nations General Assembly and said that it was encouraging the Israelis to remain adamant and totally defiant to the will of the international community. The paper referred to the recent resolutions taken by the General Assembly which it said aimed at ending Israel's repression and its occupation of Arab land. It seems that the United States wants to keep the Middle East in turmoil as an explosive region, and this is clear from its objection to granting the Palestinians their legitimate rights in their own homeland, said the paper. By opposing the majority of nations at the United Nations, Washington is not only isolating itself from the world community but also is turning its back to all international principles, the paper noted. The past two decades have proved that the Americans' attitude has only helped the Israelis to become more adamant and hardened their position, refusing any deals with the Palestinians and rejecting their rights and their freedom, the paper added. In casting the negative vote at the U.N. General Assembly, Washington has never given the world any convincing reason for its action and most lately it has threatened to cut off all funds to the world organisation if the latter decided to grant the PLO an observer status as a state at the United Nations, the paper continued. By taking this stand, it said the United States is thus confronting the whole community and obstructing peace and justice.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily views with optimism Tehran's overtures towards peace with Iraq. Mirmoud Rimawi says that Iran's offer to exchange wounded prisoners of war with Iraq is a welcome development and could pave the way for further steps towards the release of all prisoners of war, a move that can be beneficial to both sides. The writer says Tehran seems to have responded to pressure exercised on its leaders by various organisations and nations, and is now taking this humanitarian move to free the prisoners, a step which Iraq has been urging all along. Iraq, says the writer, hopes to open a new chapter in relations with Iran and is now urging Iranian people to exercise increased pressure on their leaders to take positive moves towards peace. One can only feel encouraged by the end of propaganda warfare that has been going on between Baghdad and Tehran, and the more moderate statements issued by leaders on both sides, since this indicates an improvement in the situation, says Rimawi. The aspired peace seems to be slowly creeping towards the Gulf region, the writer concludes, but surely it is coming and it will be a blessing for all peoples in the region.

Al Dustour daily commented Wednesday on the King's letter of designation to Prime Minister Mudar Badran to form a new government. The paper dwelt on the question of democracy and the prevalence of law and order which, it said, are essential for the success of parliamentary democracy in any country. The paper said the new government is expected to abide by the directives which also call for public freedoms within the context of the Jordanian constitution. It said the letter of designation has indeed paved the way for democracy to flourish in the Kingdom, but it added, that the government and the parliament can and should make this come about, if the country is to reap its fruits.

U.S., Soviets bury decades of Mideast rivalry

By Alan Elmer
Reuters

WASHINGTON — President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev appear to have buried decades of hostility on the Middle East, a conflict that brought the two nations closer to nuclear confrontation than any in the past 20 years.

Although they agreed to work together to solve the Middle East problem, the region did not play a major role in the Malta summit, highlighting that the once-explosive rivalry is no longer viewed as a major threat of superpower confrontation, analysts said.

"There was clearly a sense that the United States is now far more oriented to giving the Soviets a role in Middle East peace efforts after 20 years of excluding them as a destructive element," said John Hannah, an analyst with the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

In their joint news conference in Malta, Bush said Moscow was playing a constructive role in efforts to bring peace to Lebanon as well as in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"I'm sure they share our view after these talks in terms of

peaceful resolution to these questions on the Middle East, be it Lebanon or in (Israeli-occupied) West Bank questions. So I don't think we're very far apart on this," Bush said.

Gorbachev said he and Bush had reached an understanding to work independently and together to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict which over the years had raised superpower tensions and threatened world peace.

Analysts and Middle Eastern diplomats said the statements appeared to signal a significant change in the U.S. view.

Superpower rivalries in the region, with the Soviets backing Arab countries such as Syria while the United States arming Israel, reached a dangerous climax in the 1973 war, when both sides went on nuclear alert.

Even recently, the Bush administration remained sceptical of Soviet intentions in the Middle East and officials said Washington was still determined to keep Moscow on the sidelines in peace efforts.

"There have been several signs recently of a new tone in Washington's attitude. There is room to say that we see new nuances, but it's still too early to say what it may lead to," said one

Israeli diplomat.

He noted that U.S. officials recently appeared to have dropped the Middle East from a list of regional conflicts in which they wanted to see a more positive Soviet attitude. Central America and Afghanistan were still on that list.

Israeli Vice Premier Shimon Peres said on Monday the Soviet Union could no longer be regarded as one-sided in the Middle East and called this a "mighty change."

By Kevin Costelloe
The Associated Press

EAST BERLIN — Premier Hans Modrow, who is emerging as East Germany's top political figure, is a reform-minded Communist long shunned by the former hard-line leaders.

Many see the 61-year-old Modrow as East Germany's equivalent to Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev, whose domestic programmes of greater openness and economic restructuring caught hold in Eastern Europe.

Modrow was elected premier, or head of government, on Nov. 14 after years of waiting as local party leader in Dresden. He was named Monday to handle any Communist Party issues that arise during the current Warsaw Pact summit in Moscow.

It was also Modrow's duty to inform the edgy Moscow leadership about the growing upheaval in East Germany, where the Soviets still have nearly 400,000 troops.

Despite the clear signs of ascent, it is still too early to predict who will finally come out on top as East Germany goes through massive and seemingly uncontrollable changes.

The Communist Party, which still counts an estimated 2 million

Reform-minded E. German premier emerging as No. 1

members, is preparing for an emergency session on Dec. 15-17 that will elect new leaders. But even then, with party support dropping and a greater risk of a breakup, the Communists' future is increasingly clouded.

Modrow himself has been among those giving a gloomy assessment of the party's chances, saying that the Communists would get no more than 20 per cent of the vote if the promised free elections were held today.

The premier, in his inaugural speech to parliament on Nov. 17, called for more private enterprise to help rescue the country's troubled economy.

Modrow said the country is "open for proposals on joint ventures, investment, transfer of profits and environmental pilot projects," all of which address some of the concerns of Western businesses looking for openings

in the East German market. He called for a "better socialism" with more supplies of consumer goods for the nation's 16.5 million people.

Long known as an anti-establishment Communist, Modrow was the target of an inquisition led by former hard-line leader Erich Honecker.

The attacks temporarily derailed his career as a nationwide leader, forcing him to stay as local party chief.

In June, central authorities singled him out for rare public criticism, saying he had failed to control "bourgeois and enemy views" in Dresden after a large demonstration of citizens demanding freedom of travel to the West.

An engineer by trade and holder of a university economics degree, Modrow already has wielded far more clout as premier

than his colourless predecessor, Willi Stoph.

Many East Germans as well as Soviet officials made plain they would have preferred Modrow in the post of Communist Party secretary, but the job went to Honecker's protégé, Egon Krenz on Oct. 18.

As 10,000 demonstrators rallied in East Berlin on Sunday, many carried placards saying all of the top Communist leaders should quit except Modrow.

With Krenz now out, that leaves open the possibility for a Modrow shot at the top party job — if the structure stays the same.

Married and the father of two children, Modrow began his party career as chief of the Communist youth organisation in East Berlin from 1959 to 1961. He won election to the 163-member central committee in 1967 and became Dresden party secretary in 1973.

Modrow won widespread support in Dresden, in part because he rejected party perks and insisted on living in a normal apartment. His wife reportedly waited in lines at stores like other local housewives.

The premier stunned East Berliners by walking home, rather than being driven, after his Nov. 17 speech in parliament.

By Michael Posner
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Despite some grumbling from right that he gave away too much too fast, a popular George Bush returned from the Malta summit with major short-term political gains that mask, at least temporarily, some serious domestic concerns.

Not since President Kennedy's first year in office have polls showed a president so popular with the American people and analysts say Bush may well exceed Kennedy's high rating following his meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

The meeting was short on specifics but long on promises from both sides of an easing of tensions and the United States pledged to help the Soviet Union move into the free market world economy.

In the latest Gallup poll taken between Nov. 9 and 12 — before the summit — 70 per cent gave the Republican president favourable marks against 17 per cent who disliked his performance. The rest were undecided.

His overall popularity is high although he gets bad marks for specific policies, such as those on abortion and Central America. In November 1991 a young, vigorous Kennedy drew a post-war record 79 per cent popularity rating. Nine per cent disliked the Democrat with the rest undecided.

"The summit is tremendous for Bush," said presidential scholar George Reedy, a professor at Marquette University who was President Johnson's press secretary.

"Here is a man who fell into a cesspool and came up smelling roses," Reedy said, noting domestic opposition to his abortion and El Salvador policies as an example.

Reedy noted the summit background of a disintegrating iron curtain with rapid and momentous pro-democracy changes in former hard-line Communist countries.

"In the American system, no matter what happens around the world, either credit or blame goes to the president," Reedy said in a telephone interview. "In this case, many people will have the idea that Bush melted the ice of

Bush gaining politically at home from Malta summit

the cold war." "However, in the United States, you can go from being a hero to a bum in 30 seconds," Reedy noted.

Other analysts noted Bush's gains could be only for the short run. If something happens to Gorbachev or if there is a change of Soviet policy to repress the pro-democracy reforms through military means, Bush could find himself politically embarrassed by his embrace of Gorbachev.

Not everyone was happy over Bush's performance. Conservative columnist William Safire wrote in the New York Times that "... the result of the Malta summit becomes clear: Mr. Bush failed miserably and Mr. Gorbachev succeeded brilliantly" in different goals, including the winning of promises of economic

help. Conservatives feel that new East-West cordiality could create heavy pressure for U.S. defence cuts larger than might be desirable.

Analysts said that Bush apparently has given the impression he has shed his image of indecisiveness.

But Bush has domestic problems that include an economy showing signs of a significant slowdown after seven years of steady growth. He also faces budget deficit problems inherited from President Reagan.

David Hess, political analyst at the Brookings Institution "think tank," said the summit undoubtedly helped Bush.

"Politically it's like other summits — a quick fix in the short run," Hess said in an interview.

"In the long term it could evaporate."

He said the next election — not due until 1992 — will probably be decided on bread and butter issues and not foreign policy matters.

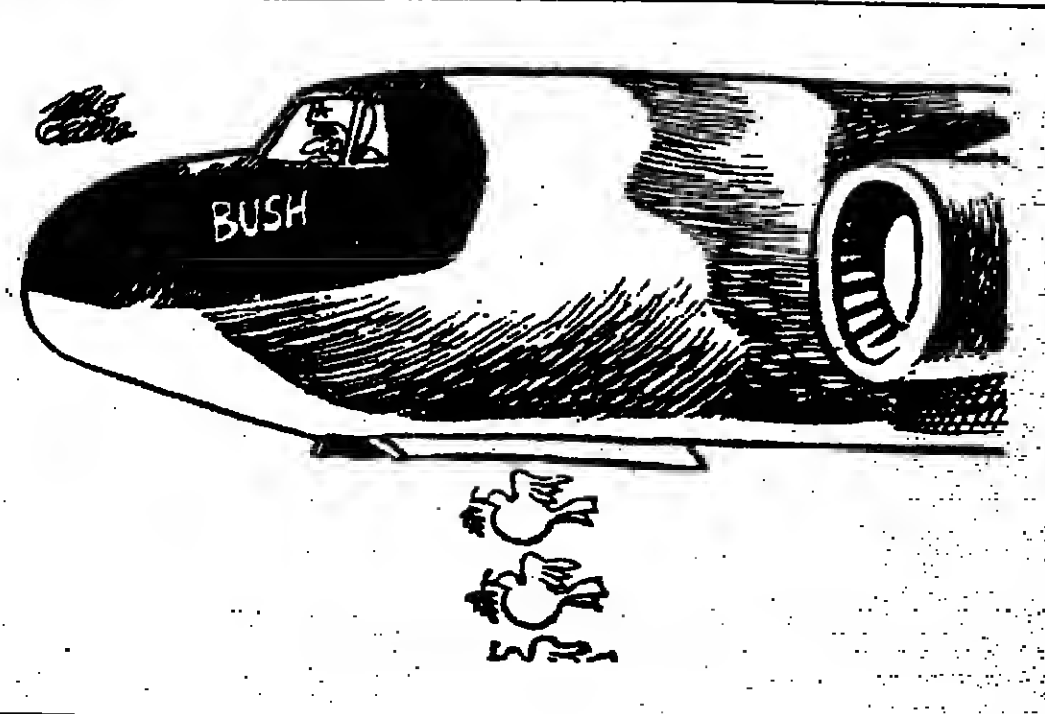
David Keene, a Republican political consultant and president of the American Conservative Union, said Bush would gain in the short term from the summit.

Bush was not the author of the changes in Eastern Europe but he had managed to have "projected himself as a participant in the change."

"Bush reasserted himself on foreign policy," Keene said. But he added that if Gorbachev cracks down on the reformist movement this could hurt Bush.

Keene said Bush could have been firmer in demanding that Gorbachev help in stopping the flow of weapons to Nicaragua.

Gorbachev said the Soviet Union had cut off its arms supply to its leftist Central American ally. But Keene said Bush could have insisted that Gorbachev cut aid to Cuba, believed to be an arms supplier to Nicaragua.



Focus on People

A brain drain

By Mariam M. Shahin

EVERY year for the last thirty or more years, many of the Arab World's best and brightest students have gone abroad to continue their education in "foreign" lands. Once abroad, many students study, work and often settle down in the countries in which they find themselves. The political, social and economic turmoil that much of the Middle East, and indeed most of the developing world, have been going through since the formal end of the colonial age and the beginning of the United Nations age has been among the main reasons why "the native sons" never came home. Although almost all of the students who went abroad to study (meaning mainly Western Europe, North America and in some instances Australia) had the sincere intention of coming back home once their studies were completed and their diplomas acquired, a promise of a better life often lured them to stay where they were.

Not all those who studied in Western Europe and North America can be categorised under the same heading nor can those students who went in the 1930s, 1940s, 1950s, 1960s be compared to those that left in the 1970s or the 1980s. Nor can one compare a Lebanese student who left Beirut in 1978 to England to a Saudi student who left Jeddah for England in the same year. Each case as such may be different. However, certain comparisons can be made.

Questionnaires compiled by certain Arab-American organisations recently indicated that a primary reason for peoples' decisions to stay where they are is economic.

The extensive found that those who felt that they would have a higher or equal income and standard of living in their native countries, regardless of the social and political conditions would return home subsequently to finishing their studies.

It is thus easy to see why Arab students from affluent Arab countries returned in high percentages and why those that came from poor Arab countries did not.

Jordan in particular is a special case. Although Jordan was affected by political and economic turmoil on a semi-regular basis in the last 30 years, its social fabric was not as torn apart as many may expect. Despite rapid urbanisation, an ever-growing influx of refugees and deportees from Palestine and a growing number of unskilled labourers from Egypt and Asia, Jordan retained a relatively low crime rate, had almost no clashes between groups of different national origins or different religious affiliations and had a steadily increasing GNP.

On an ever increasing level Jordanian families were sending their sons and daughters (initially they had sent almost only boys) to study outside of Jordan. Although the literacy rate in Jordan increased and Jordan now boasts three universities and a dozen community colleges, thousands of students are turned away yearly from the universities because of lack of place for all the applicants.

While thousands of Jordanian students come back to Jordan every year to find jobs in Jordan or in the Arab Gulf countries, many opt to stay abroad. Their skills are often technically advanced, the social and professional positions they secure in their adoptive homes are more than not high up on the white collar and professional ladder. Their wives or husbands are also often equally qualified in a variety of "respectable" professions. The result has been dubbed by the media as the "brain drain."

While they almost always acclimatise themselves to become "well adjusted" citizens of a wide variety of countries they almost never forget their origins, whether humble or grand. As one "expatriate" once said, "We are the greatest patriots of all."

While not qualifying such a statement, it is known that "disincentives makes the heart go fonder" and for many Jordanians working and living in the mostly Anglo-Saxon West, the Near East remains at least emotionally and psychologically "home." Dr. Issa Hattar is one Jordanian who left his native city of Salt to continue his higher education "abroad" after completing his journey to West Germany, how he studied to become a specialised physician, the head of his own clinic, and why he feels comfortable as a citizen of Germany and how after almost 34 of his 51 years he still feels that Jordan is "home."

Although most Arab students chose to study in countries in which the language of their former colonisers was spoken, (at least they knew the language) some chose to study in Spain, Greece, a German-speaking country, a Scandinavian country or less frequently an Eastern European country. Hattar was not really asked where he wanted to study. He was simply awarded a scholarship to study in Munich in West Germany as an honourary student in the first graduating class of the Latin Patriarchal School in Amman.

"When they told me I had a scholarship to West Germany I was very happy, I did not think that not knowing the language would be an obstacle. I had heard that the medical schools were very good in Germany and I wanted to study medicine, so for me it was a perfect set-up," Hattar recalls.

Not long after Hattar had found lodgings with a German family and had made Munich his student home, his family sent him a letter that soon one of his three brothers would be joining him to pursue his studies in medicine. So the Hattar family set up a branch in Munich.

Before his many years of study to become a surgeon had been completed the Hattar brothers were joined by their younger sister who also studied medicine. Although many immigrants came to West Germany in the 1960s and 1970s, only a few became involved in the exclusive world of the white collar professionals who, through their professional know-how and subsequent social status, avoided the discrimination that "the immigrant" the world over faces.

"Neither me nor any member of my family or circle of Arab friends was ever made to feel unwelcome. Germans are not particularly warm but they have a profound respect for the learned and that automatically exempted us from ever being the victims of discrimination. In West Germany there is an association of Arab physicians which has several thousand members from the various lands (federal states) in the Federal Republic. Although I am not particularly active at least it allows me to keep in touch with my fellow Arabs whose profession I share," Hattar says.

"Our days are very busy. We usually have a 12 to 14 hour day and Saturday and Sunday off, although we have ways to be on standby for emergency cases. So socialising is a selective thing. I see my brother and sister a lot, who like myself are married to Germans and have children. I see the rest of my family from Jordan about three times a year. I go to Jordan once and my parents come once a year to visit me and my brother and sister and stay for about two months, then one of the remaining five brothers and sisters comes at least once a year. So really sometimes I feel as if I never left home," Hattar says.

Hattar specialised in two areas of medical science, one is surgery and the other is called industrial medicine. Industrial medicine is a "specialisation that I think the Germans invented and that does not exist yet in Jordan as far as I know," Hattar says. "I am the industrial doctor for 12 companies and am completely responsible for the health of their blue and white collar workers. If they are injured or hurt during the working hours or are exposed to chemical or industrial substances while they are working it is for me to find out and to suggest what preventive measures should be taken. Because this field of specialisation has allowed for a tremendous reduction in industrial accidents and illnesses it is not required by law to have an industrial physician supervise all companies in West Germany," Hattar says.

Five years back Hattar and his German wife opened their own private day clinic in which they perform operations that do not need overnight hospitalisation. Along with 20 nurses, three doctors, Hattar and his wife treat up to 35 patients in a single day.

Asked if he considered coming home to open a clinic in Jordan, Hattar smiles and explains that his clinic is doing well and that it would be inconvenient to return for him at this point. "But there is always a tomorrow," he says.

Amman's art scene thriving with women artists

This is the second part of a two part article on women artists in Jordan.

By Nelly Lama

Special to the Jordan Times
The Jordan Intercontinental Hotel was the venue Saturday for an exhibition of paintings by art teacher Gulshen Sleem and four of her habitual students. The inauguration ceremony opened by H.H. Princess Wijdan Ali brought in all the who's who of Jordan. They all seemed impressed at seeing realistic paintings including scenes such as seascapes, landscapes, interiors, personages and horses, rendered within the last year of study. Some of the students did, however, begin painting before that.

Gulshen's system of teaching is not drawing from life, but from pictures. Students get to learn about mixing paints, applying them, learning to transcribe physical objects onto canvas, to draw in perspective etc. Most paintings exhibited offered a romantic, rather soulful vision. Was the reason for this the subjects handled? Subjects like "balletinas", "serenity", etc., or the fact that the majority of colour schemes rest in the medium and light scale? One thing for sure, black was never used, neither did any colour that could darken the scheme somewhat enhancing the rendering of volumes that constantly seem to float in an aerial atmosphere.

Although some works were very much in line with the teacher's own work, itself being quite advanced, one can find each student handling subjects of her own choice.

Lara Malik, a very young student excels in the use of patterns and rhythms which are apparent in all her paintings. She transforms her ballerinas into rhythmic legs and arms so that they assume the rhythms they were meant to dance. Her "Flourishing stems" a number of blooms with the most vivid use of "cubist" elements in the stems bears a dichromatic scheme with great total effects. On the whole, Lara shows great promise in her painting.

Mae Loza, who started painting only one year ago, is another promising artist, whose portraits show a good understanding of facial anatomy. She displays three portraits, two in oil of herself and her husband Ziad facing each other, and a third in coloured pastels of her son. She attempts to draw animal anatomy, horses in full swing, an ambitious work, definitely not for beginners, but Mae surprises us all with the results.

Iham Ghannous displays a

luminous seascape where the waves beat and break and "foaming runs the billow". Iham has a keen interest in light effects which she often renders beautifully. Her portrait, in pastels, of Her Majesty Queen Nour has caught not only the features but the prancing youth of the active Queen. Her female mountaineer sitting at the edge of a cliff looking away into the distance displays her interest in studying light effects, and in putting both expression and atmosphere in her paintings.

Nahla Tabba' has come a long way from her early works (covered October 18, 1988 in the Jordan Times). Although she is a grandmother, her works express the freshness of youth as well as her never ending search for the exotic. A bride looking at herself in the mirror with the rendering of lace and other decorative effects. Other subjects she handles are no less exotic "1001 Nights", "Fairy Tale", "Oriental Figure", etc. are all good ground for the decoration and exotic colours that she loves to use.

The teacher, Gulshen comes from Turkey, she had her training in The Washington School of Art and is well travelled. Her Painting "Garden" formed within two coordinated canvases shows her mastery of analogous colour tones. It is full of details although the main volumes are retained. Her students have, understandably, not yet reached this maturity of handling. They claim that she does stop them from the use of details the fact that should make them perceive volumes, whether stable or in motion. But details are abundant in their work. Their use of the high value scale, and their more or less schematic 'drawing' (because of the lack of preparatory sketching) is obviously another reason that leaves their work slightly wanting.

Also in the premises of the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel, The Gallery, houses some artifacts designed by Lina Lama that stand beside the watercolours and pen and ink sketches of painter Ahmad Ismail.

Lina Lama displays her textile artifacts, creating local figures 'Nofa and Faris' in local dress made of traditional textiles and colours. She offers a variety of handmade pillow-cases, slipper, napkins and bibs using original combinations of textile, rendered in applique, sometimes covered with paints and glitter, or with coins and bias tape sewn on, charming little gift items that

took a great deal of thinking, designing and creativity always keeping local colour in mind.

The Alia Gallery presents two young artists from the University of Yarmouk. Sana Hindi Bourini and Abeer Abou Joudah. Both handle portraits of local people in traditional dress, surrounded by folk artifacts from straw mats to rosaries, etc.

Sana renders the skin smooth and translucent while Abeer builds it up with rough brushstrokes of different colours creating strong illumination in the face and hands. Unfortunately, the rest of the body does not depict the same illumination. This dense rendering of it and of the background, quite good in itself, makes the work lack unity.

Her landscapes are a medley of brushstrokes where form is more hinted at than actually painted. Her still lifes, on the other hand, are true works of art, obviously done under the watchful eye of a very good professor.

Sana's translucent portraits show a good study of anatomy and a mature use of volumes. Her work is touched with a sense of sweetness and lyrical spirituality. In some portraits there is a very good attempt at drapery with beautiful transparencies in vivid light colours; this healthy rendering is unfortunately not constant in her work, for in other works it is simply hinted at and leaves some areas unfinished and neglectfully so. She has great potential if she takes the time to work.

Every artist mentioned here has made at least one good work of art showing good potential. It would be sad if art was taken lightly, as a hobby and pastime. Art should be given serious aesthetic thought as well as strenuous hard work in preparatory sketches and compositional balancing, especially where figurative work is concerned. Remember that only where there is aesthetic balance and harmony is a painting called a work of art.

My personal feeling is that artists, especially beginners and new graduates, should take time to grow, to assimilate, and to learn before starting to exhibit their creations. But we should all take into consideration that art is a very expensive luxury, consuming both time and money. It is for this reason that amateurs with some talent risk to exhibit and so sell. The proceeds could help them continue the great battle of creativity, and that would be worthwhile if they are willing to learn.



H.H. Princess Wijdan Ali with the lady artists

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Jordan Times'

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

S. Yemen marches down perestroika route

ADEN (R) — Impoverished South Yemen, ruled by a Soviet-style party since independence from Britain 22 years ago, has started down President Gorbachev's perestroika road of economic liberalisation.

A rigid planned economy has failed to lift it from the ranks of the poorest of the world's poor but its government has in the last few months taken cautious yet dramatic steps to free its economy from state control.

More are promised. "Mistakes have been made," by Minister of Planning Ibrahim Hamud, Mohammed told Reuters. "We are trying to correct those mistakes."

South Yemen, unlike its neighbours on the Arabian Peninsula, exports no oil and has an annual per capita income of around \$500.

On Dec. 1 it signed a unity agreement with its free-wheeling neighbour North Yemen which envisages an eventual merger of the two states.

In a landmark decision last week the government approved the construction of the country's first private sector hotel. The three-star establishment in Alhayan province west of Aden is to be built by a Yemeni businessman working in the Gulf.

Other businessmen are building bakeries, a chicken farm and small factories. Output will not be subject to government price controls in most situations, said Mohammed.

The new policy is a major departure for the government, which in the early 1970s brought most of the country's farms under the control of state cooperatives

or took them over directly. Aden, the Arab World's only doctrinaire Marxist state, has also nationalised apartment blocks, banks and most industry.

But now the government is debating the final details of a new investment law that will allow foreigners to own local ventures.

The law, expected to be enacted within three months, will give projects of more than 50,000 dinars (\$145,000, at the official exchange rate) breaks and tariff exemptions for three to six years.

Mohammed said the government plans to hand over parts of its retail trade to the private sector, especially in agricultural produce and fish.

Many basic commodities have disappeared from shop shelves. Diplomats compare Aden's plight with that of East Germany. The lure of jobs in neighbouring capitalist countries where the same language is spoken has continually drained their best brains and sapped their economies.

At the same time, there is the promise of a large inflow of investments from their neighbours if reforms are introduced.

Many of Saudi Arabia's richest merchant families trace their roots back to South Yemen's Hadramaut province.

However, Yemeni officials warn that they must act quickly to attract funds because younger merchants born in Saudi Arabia have few of their parents' emotional ties to Yemen.

Mohammed said the government was trying to attract investment in oil, tourism and the port of Aden.

The country recently began pumping its first commercial quantities of oil and exploration for more is continuing.

A relaxation of travel restrictions has brought an influx of North Yemenis attracted by the south's relaxed attitude toward drinking alcohol.

Mohammed says visa requirements are to be eased soon for all foreigners to attract tourists to Yemen's spectacular beaches and rich archaeological sites along ancient incense routes.

Aden Port, lying in a strategic position along one of the world's busiest shipping routes, is being upgraded and a free trade zone is planned.

Before any of this occurs, however, the country must get to grips with its stifling bureaucracy, Western businessmen say.

Financial conference opens at Yarmouk University Sunday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, a three-day conference on the role of accounting and banking sciences in the economic development of Jordan will be held on Dec. 10 at Yarmouk University.

Chairman of the preparatory committee for the conference, Sayed Ramadan, said the conference aims primarily at highlighting the role played by accountancy and banking and sciences in providing the necessary information for decision makers.

He noted that such information helps to make the best use of the available financial resources in a manner that commensurate with the economic development objectives.

The conference also aims to discuss the financial and accounting problems facing the various economic institutions and assist in finding solutions to them. It also

serves as a forum for exchanging views and experiences among the participants, Ramadan said.

The conference will discuss 30 research papers on the role of accounting in economic advancement in the developing world, management of exchange rates risks and planning, monitoring and evaluation of performance at financial institutions.

A number of experts and professors from the Council of Arab Economic Unity, Arab Banks Union, and the universities of Alexandria, the United Arab

Emirates, Um Duman, Mastan, Siriah, Mohammad, Ben Sami, Baghdad, Saladdin, Basra, Jerusalem Open University, Qar, Younis, Ellinos, Glazo, Yarmouk and the University of Jordan will be taking part in the conference.

Representatives from the Finance Ministry of Iraq, the Royal Scientific Society, the Audit Commission, the Social Security Corporation and the Arab, Jordan National and Jordan Kuwait banks will also take part.

Libya to give private sector greater role

TRIPOLI (R) — After years of rigid state control, Libya is encouraging private business so long as it follows Colonel Muammar Qadhafi's ruling that workers are partners and not slaves.

"The intention is to expand gradually the role of individuals and cooperatives in the economy," a confidential official document made available to Reuters said.

It indicates the authorities will not allow private businesses to grow into capitalist-style companies where the workers receive wages and the owners reap the profits.

But foreign economists say the proposed measures would boost the private sector and follows encouraging early results of an economic liberalisation programme launched in 1988.

The government plans to cut its budget deficit by phasing out all subsidies on foodstuffs such as wheat, flour, sugar, tea and salt but controls on prices and on exchange and interest rates will not be eased in the near future, the document said.

After years of strict control of all businesses except small farms and private artisans, the government last year allowed private shops to reopen and began to encourage small private enterprises in the services and manufacturing sectors.

Ownership of some state-owned factories has been transferred to the employees under the "partnership, not wage-slavery" scheme. Libya depends heavily on oil but lower world prices in recent

years have hit the economy. The document, a rare insight into government economic planning, says, "these initiatives should be considered the start of a gradual process that will be deepened and developed in the light of evolving circumstances."

In line with Qadhafi's theories, the only workers in private companies must be family members of partners in the company. In practice partnerships often employ foreigners illegally.

The next stage of the liberalisation will come when the government allows private companies and partnerships to import directly most types of goods.

"Eventually public and private entities will share import activities equally," the document says. At the moment the public sector dominates.

To stimulate the private sector and ease balance of payments pressures, foreign consultants have urged the government to devalue the dinar to boost exports, raise interest rates to encourage savings and end fixing retail prices.

Libya's current account balance deteriorated in 1988 to a deficit of \$2.3 billion from \$1 billion in 1987, partly because the liberalisation released pent-up demand for all imports not previously available.

The consultants argued that devaluation would encourage non-oil exports and cut imports, that higher interest rates would promote savings and that liberalisation would make the economy more efficient.

CAEU opens talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Libyan secretary-general of the economy and foreign trade people's committee, Dr. Farhat Saleh Sharnah, has called for defining spheres of coordination between the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) and various Arab economic groupings, and to develop channels of contact and means to exchange expertise in order to attain objectives related to comprehensive Arab economic unity.

Addressing the opening session of the Amman-based CAEU Wednesday, Sharnah called for enabling the Arab Cooperation Council, the Gulf Cooperation Council, and the Arab Maghreb Union to perform their duties by cementing coordination bases and ensure the best methods for

exploiting natural resources.

CAEU Secretary-General Hassan Ibrahim welcomed the decision that CAEU adopted in its recent session which called for adherence to joint Arab action. He stressed that we are living in an era characterised by economic blocs.

Ibrahim called for supporting the struggle of the Palestinian people, achieving peace between Iraq and Iran, and tackling Sudan's problems.

The session — attended by Arab ministers of economy, trade, and finance — will discuss a report on moves to bolster integration among Arab states and to remove trade barriers. The meetings will furthermore discuss the CAEU's fiscal budget for 1990.

Algerian industrial production drops

ALGIERS (R) — Algerian industrial output fell in the first quarter of 1989 because of strikes and poor supplies of raw materials, an official report has said. The National Statistics Office said state sector industrial production fell 5.5 per cent over the same 1988 period, and slipped another one per cent from the previous quarter. "Industrial activity was perturbed by numerous social conflicts in the workplace, in addition to the supply problems which the majority of industrial enterprises experienced," the report said. Algeria used oil and gas revenues in the 1970s to build a massive industrial base that is one of Africa's largest.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Seminar to highlight Japanese industry

AMMAN (Petra) — Directors and chairman of the board of directors of a number of economic institutions will participate in a specialised seminar on Japanese industrial administration, the strategy of managing small and medium size industries, as well as means to promote the standard of productivity in factories. The seminar, to convene Saturday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan at the Amman Chamber of Industry, will enable the participants to meet experts in the Japanese industry and get detailed information about the methods of mapping out production and administrative policies, and to promote productivity using the necessary expertise. The seminar is organised by the Higher Council for Science and Technology in cooperation with the Ministry of Planning, the Amman Chamber of Industry, and the Japanese Centre for Cooperation with the Middle Eastern Countries.

Moroccan foreign debt totals \$20b

KUWAIT (R) — Moroccan Finance Minister Mohammad Berrada has said his country owes \$20 billion in foreign debt. Berrada, speaking to Kuwaiti businessmen at an economic seminar, said Morocco was considering privatising about 100 government firms. The Moroccan minister flew to Kuwait from Saudi Arabia where he signed an agreement to set up a \$47-million joint investment company. Berrada said a 20 per cent stake had been set aside for Arab investors in the planned privatisation programme which would include 30 hotels and 12 factories.

Pakistan gets \$50m Arab loan

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — Gulf International Bank (GIB), a Bahrain-based institution owned by the seven Arab states of the Gulf, has arranged a \$50 million loan to finance Pakistan's rice exports. The one-year loan, signed in Karachi, carries an annual interest of three-quarters of a percentage point over the London Inter Bank Offered Rate, an announcement said. The borrower is the Rice Export Corp. of Pakistan and the loan is guaranteed by the State Bank of Pakistan, GIB said. The loan's lead managers are GIB and Commercial Bank of Kuwait, as well as Habib Bank Ltd. and the Arab Banking Corp. which are also based in Bahrain.

West to develop East cellular phones

BUDAPEST (R) — A U.S. firm is to set up a joint venture in Hungary to own and operate the first national cellular phone system in Eastern Europe. Information and telecommunications group U.S. West Inc. has signed an agreement with the Hungarian post office to create Hungarian Cellular Communications Inc., with initial capital of around \$10 million. U.S. West will hold 49 per cent in the venture, and Hungary's Postal Authority 51 per cent. Hungary has only 1.7 million telephone lines for a population of 10.6 million. It recently launched a programme to give the country three million lines by the end of the century.

Kuwait Airways plans route extensions

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Kuwait Airways is negotiating with Singapore, Australia and Indonesia to fly to those countries, its chairman has said. After opening its sales office here, chairman Ahmad Hamad Al Mishani told reporters that Kuwait Airways, which began service Sunday to Malaysia via Bangkok, might extend that weekly flight to Singapore, Indonesia and Australia. "Our operations in South East Asia contribute about 8.0 per cent to annual sales," he said, adding that this would increase as Kuwait Airways has signed a commercial agreement on sale of seats with Malaysia Airlines. The agreement was signed Monday by Ghazi Al Mishan, Kuwait Airways' commercial affairs director, and Baharuddin Haji Nordin, MAS' director of marketing and sales. Ahmad said Kuwait Airways was studying buying more aircraft as the airline wanted to replace its existing four Boeing 747-200 Jumbo jets with the latest Boeing 747-400. Ahmad said the company also was negotiating to purchase Boeing 757 and 767 aircraft.

Somalia-Kenya row turns economic

MOGADISHU (R) — Somalia has warned it would cut its trade with Kenya unless Nairobi discontinued its controversial screening of all Somalis in the country. "If Kenya pursues its current hostile and discriminatory attitude against ethnic Somalis as a whole, trade between the two countries is virtually impossible," Commerce Minister Abdikassim Salad Hassan told a news conference in Mogadishu. "The Somali government will not tolerate the Kenyan government's conduct of singling out and discriminating against people of Somali origin for its domestic ills," he added, but declined to elaborate. Official figures show Somalia imports about 80 per cent of its consumer goods, such as soap, tea, cigarettes and potatoes from Kenya, to which it exports mainly livestock and some salt. Somalia told Kenyan authorities last week the screening of Somalis, launched in early November, could harm relations between the two east African states. The screening requires all ethnic Somalis over 18 years to prove they are in Kenya legally.

Soviet food prices increase

MOSCOW (R) — Food prices in the Soviet Union rose by an average of more than three per cent in the first half of the year. The figures suggested the real rate of inflation could be higher than officially admitted. The Communist Party daily Pravda said that food prices in cities rose by three per cent while those in the countryside rose by four per cent for the six months to June. In the Russian Federation, by far the largest of the country's 15 constituent republics, food prices rose by six per cent and non-food prices climbed by 11 per cent in the same six-month period. The Soviet Union does not issue regular inflation figures. In October, a state statistics committee official said the inflation rate for the first nine months of the year was 2.6 per cent. Radical economists put it at closer to six per cent.

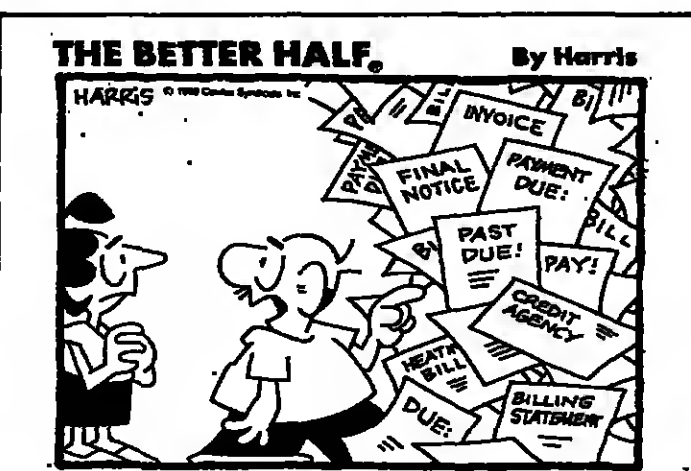
Real estate deals up Jordan's income

AMMAN (Petra) — The Department of Lands and Survey collected fees amounting to JD 1.996 million during October of 1989, compared to JD 1.736 million in the same month of last year. The fees were charged on buying and selling real estate in the country. According to a department statement last September, the revenue from such fees amounted to JD 2.568 million compared to JD 1.575 million in September 1988.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES			
Central bank official rates			
	Buy	Sell	
French franc	105.9	107.0	
Japanese yen (for 100)	447.2	451.8	
U.S. dollar	1.1615/25	1.1615/25	
Deutsche mark	1.7770/77	1.7770/77	
Dutch guilder	2.0050/57	2.0050/57	
Swiss franc	1.5935/45	1.5935/45	
Belgian franc	37.31/34	37.31/34	
French franc	6.0660/0710	6.0660/0710	
Italian lire (for 100)	1308/1309	1308/1309	
Japanese yen	143.70/80	143.70/80	
Swedish crown	6.3575/3625	6.3575/3625	
Norwegian crown	6.7925/75	6.7925/75	
Danish crown	6.8900/50	6.8900/50	
U.S. dollars	402.50/403.00	402.50/403.00	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES			
Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.			
	One Sterling	One U.S. dollar	
U.S. dollars	1.5720/30	1.5720/30	
Canadian dollar	1.1615/25	1.1615/25	
Deutsche mark	1.7770/77	1.7770/77	
Dutch guilder	2.0050/57	2.0050/57	
Swiss franc	1.5935/45	1.5935/45	
Belgian franc	37.31/34	37.31/34	
French franc	6.0660/0710	6.0660/0710	
Italian lire	1308/1309	1308/1309	
Japanese yen	143.70/80	143.70/80	
Swedish crown	6.3575/3625	6.3575/3625	
Norwegian crown	6.7925/75	6.7925/75	
Danish crown	6.8900/50	6.8900/50	
U.S. dollars	402.50/403.00	402.50/403.00	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS	
SYDNEY — The market closed little changed as investors awaited direction from offshore. The All Ordinaries index rose 2.2 points to close at 1639.0.	
TOKYO — Tighter margin requirements helped slow but could not stifle the market rally as stubborn investors kept buying, pushing prices to new highs. The Nikkei index jumped 160.12 points to close at 37,654.29.	
HONG KONG — The Hang Seng index eased 8.05 points to close at 2,756.39.	
SINGAPORE — Foreign and institutional buying boosted the Straits Times index 11.94 to a post-crash high of 1,443.33.	
BOMBAY — Prices rose selectively in mixed reactions to the new cabinet.	
FRANKFURT — Foreign orders flooded the market on hopes for a boom resulting from changes in East Germany. The DAX index gained 31.74 to a record close for the year of 1,658.35. Volkswagen announced a joint venture in the East Tuesday. "There is no major West German firm that is not currently involved in negotiations with East Germany," said Alexander Magons of Banque Paribas capital markets.	
PARIS — Paribas gained 28 francs to 669. Unexplained buying of the bank and its subsidiaries led the CAC-40 index up 21.03 points to 1,960.29.	
LONDON — Shares gained on Kingfisher's \$461 million bid for Dixons boosted shares in a buoyant market. "Index funds are flush with cash and there's very little selling," a trader commented. At 1642 GMT the FTSE was up 30 points to 2,355.5.	
NEW YORK — Robert Farrell of Merrill Lynch said the market is moderately overbought and stocks could pull back for a week. AT 1645 GMT the Dow Jones industrials were up 1.07 point at 2,742.75.	



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VARGE

DOPKE

RUBETT

CLAISO

Answer: A "GRIEF HOUSE TOTTER NUANCE"

Yesterday's Jumbles: GRIEF HOUSE TOTTER NUANCE

Answer: He married a rich wife, so he never had to pay anything — except this — ATTENTION

Peanuts

NO "BIENNIAL" MEANS TWICE A YEAR..

I THINK "BIENNIAL" MEANS EVERY TWO YEARS..

"BI-D-MINUS" MUST MEAN TWICE A DAY..

BUT WHY DID YOU, YOUR WIFE AND HER MOTHER ALL VOTE THE SAME?

BECAUSE IN MY FAMILY WE ALL VOTE ON WHAT WE'RE GONNA DO AND WE DO IT!

YOU VOTE BEFORE YOU VOTE?

IN MY FAMILY WE ALL STICK TOGETHER! IN UNITY THERE IS STRENGTH! A HOUSE DIVIDED BY ITSELF FALLS!

IN MY HOUSE THE FAMILY VOTES ON ALL IMPORTANT DECISIONS!

THE ONLY TROUBLE IS WHICHEVER WAY I GET TO VOTE IT'S ALWAYS AGAINST MY BETTER JUDGMENT.

I SHOULD HAVE STUCK TO MY OWN PLAN — THIS BLOCK DOESN'T LOOK VERY SOCIABLE..

NOT MUCH CHANCE OF A FREE DRINK OUT OF HIM.. STILL NO HARM IN TRYING.

I'VE LEFT MY WALLET IN MY OTHER TROUSERS. BOSS — COULD YOU HELP ME OUT?

ANYTHING TO OBLIGE, SIR.

JPL, in 1988

FIFA set to end heated debate over seedings Thursday

By Paul Radford
Reuters

ROME — The organising committee for next year's World Cup finals in Italy will on Thursday settle the vexed arguments, lobbying and manoeuvring over which six teams should be seeded when it decides on the formula for Saturday's draw.

Their predicament over which two nations should take the last seeded places behind Italy, Argentina, Brazil and West Germany has generated more steam than any other World Cup issue with Belgium, England and Spain raising strong claims.

The heated volume of the debate is surprising as recent tournament experience shows the seeding issue is largely irrelevant.

At the 1986 World Cup finals in Mexico only two of the six seeds (Mexico and Brazil) won their groups, a figure equalled by the teams from the supposedly weak section of the draw (Morocco and Denmark).

In the format under which 16 of the 24 teams go through, adopted for the first time in Mexico, it is actually quite difficult to get knocked out in the opening round.

The four best third-placed teams from the six groups of four nations qualify for the knock-out

stage of the tournament, a formula which, in Mexico, permitted Uruguay to go through even though they failed to win any of their three games and were thrashed 6-1 by Denmark in one.

Bulgaria also illustrated the devaluation of the importance of group matches, advancing without winning a match — two draws and a defeat were good enough for them.

None of this has stopped teams fretting over who their group opponents will be not has it stop-

ped the lobbying and arm-twisting of International Football Federation (FIFA) delegates this week in Rome.

England set the ball rolling with their campaign to be seeded in group F and thus play all their first-round matches in the Sardinian capital of Cagliari where, it is argued, potential hooligan fans can be better controlled.

The Spaniards responded angrily, saying they had superior sporting grounds on their side and that England rowdies should not

rob them of a rightful seeding. They want to be head of group C in Turin.

Belgium, who could lose out to both as the three nations scramble for the final two seeded places behind Italy (group A, Rome), Argentina (B, Naples), Brazil (D, Milan) and West Germany (E, Verona), have been remarkably quiet, even though they have the best argument on their side.

As 1986 World Cup semifinalists, the Belgians have a solid claim since FIFA seeded both France and Poland on that basis at the time of the last finals in

Mexico.

But much manoeuvring is going on behind the scenes. FIFA President Joao Havelange is reported to favour using a calculation based on the last World Cup finals — which would leave England out in the cold.

FIFA General Secretary Joseph Blatter is said to prefer an equation relating to the last two finals — which would force Spain out.

But his scenario is complicated by Turin's view that it would prefer Spain to Belgium.

Becker, Graf named world champs

LONDON (AP) — Boris Becker and Steffi Graf were named world champions by the International Tennis Federation Tuesday.

Becker, rated second in the world on computer points, was chosen for the men's title over top-ranked Ivan Lendl, whom he beat in both of their meetings this year.

The nominating panel of former stars Fred Perry, Frank Sedgman and Tony Trabert said that head-to-head record was one reason they selected the West German over Lendl, a Czechoslovak who lives in the United States.

They said that Becker also impressed them by winning the men's singles championships at two of the four grand slam tournaments, Wimbledon and the U.S. Open, and leading West Germany into the Davis Cup final.

Lendl won the Australian Open championship but was eliminated in the other three grand slams. He has not played Davis Cup for several years.

"Ivan Lendl may be No. 1 in the rankings and his figures for the year gave him a genuine claim to the title," Perry said. "But the fact that Boris had a better record in the biggest events and also won the only two matches they played against each other, at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open, had to be decisive."

Perry said Becker had improved tremendously since becoming the youngest Wimbledon champion at 17, in 1985, when he still had "holes in his game."

"Most players at that age have the opportunity to fill in those holes because if they lose, it doesn't matter," Perry said. "If they lose as Wimbledon champion, however, it is different. The way Boris has filled those holes deserves great praise."

Becker and Lendl both lost to Sweden's Stefan Edberg in last week's grand prix Masters tournament — Lendl in the semi-finals, Becker in the championship match.

Graf, who won the women's world title last year as well, took three of the four grand slam-

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1989

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation.

GENERAL TENDENCIES: After a definitely upsetting early morning the aspects indicate an even more difficult afternoon and evening where your most talented ability will be frustrated and limited. You have no cooperation or support.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Existing friends will invite you to some social meetings today. Join with your family in making your home more attractive.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) In entertaining, invite a couple into your home for best results. Your attachment will enjoy some public outlets today.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Enlarging your ideas will make it possible for you to make more money. Communicate with you and your family's companions at a distance.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Let good friends now be more aware of your fondness for them. Put more modern and up-to-date gadgets and articles into your home.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Take seriously the suggestions of an associate in making more money. Much conversation with your loved one will solve all problems.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You will get along best in confidential relationships with friends. Curb a restlessness that will cause you to get away from your dwelling place.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Trying to force a financial matter will bring opposition from

an older person. Get everything in ship-shape condition at your residence.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Be receptive to all sorts of interesting opportunities at your residence. Get your relationship on a more secure structure with your attachment.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Go on short trips to see friends who are not far away. Build up a greater accord now at your own residence.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Don't get hurt feelings by the strange selfish acts of friends. Avoid having resentment now over some home conditions.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Invite all sorts of fascinating persons into your home. Your relationship with your loved one depends strictly on your attitude now.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You will best enjoy long satisfactory pleasures. It is time you have that intimate conversation with your family.

Today's child: If your child were born today he or she can be of great assistance in placing in motion magnanimous ideas that are clearly New Age concepts that will be considered most attractive by older individuals, who are always the first to take interest in this property. This child should learn to put some funds in reserve for a rainy day and not over use their energy.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

THE Daily Crossword by Craig Schultz

ACROSS

1. Leading
2. School of whales
3. Small music group
4. Use a soapbox
5. Baseball stat
6. The Ram
7. Favorite spot for 2DD
8. Human
9. Strain
10. Ginger Gibb
11. Prolonged period
12. Spacious
13. Sch. subj.
14. Pigeon sound
15. Toccin
16. Phi head
17. Sandwiches
18. Lens e.g.
19. Arab gulf
20. Cruise
21. Sand lorth
22. Charmed
23. Slow down
24. Legal right
25. Sun
26. Horse or cow
27. Domino ptp
28. Scatter
29. Grala coarsely
30. Ground
31. Baglike part
32. Political
33. Grandpa's specialties
34. Murrow's "See —"
35. Proulx
36. TV's White
37. Use a razor
38. Cow fodder
39. Peck
40. Woodman

DOWN

1. Swindle
2. Sp. bull
3. Arab prince
4. Aide in crime
5. The pictures
6. Adversary
7. Strapped
8. Tabula —
9. River of Hades
10. Slush
11. Some senior citizens
12. Await
13. Smeared with mud
14. More risky
15. Zodiac sign
16. Child's reaser
17. Roll of money
18. In the past
19. Harp's cousin
20. Senior citizen
21. Surrounding
22. Grassland
23. Having good luck
24. Undivided
25. Godless of victory
26. Fr. pronoun
27. Oolong
28. Pithy saying
29. Imperfection
30. Crude metal
31. Dark brown
32. Play segment
33. Willow twig
34. Sch. subj.
35. Arch
36. "— we got fun?"
37. Nibble
38. Wander aimlessly
39. Pitcher
40. A Gabor
41. Unhappy

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

SAISON SCALE TINGE
PIRE ANNOT AGNE
YIPAR AUSA MAIT
NOCTIVE MANTO
TWO ROME JARDEN
HARRIS ATMAN
ALBERTA SCOR CAS
REPARASADRE TALL
ESP RIKS NOISE
KRIARI MYRILE
SAVINGE CRAM VIT
SAUTIE GINER
HIST PAIRAL AMMA
MAITE TINGER AICK
ASAR AIGER IDEA

Iran lifts ban on boding

NICOSIA (R) — Iran has lifted the ban on boxing imposed at the time of the 1979 Islamic revolution that toppled the shah, the Iranian News Agency IRNA reported.

IRNA received in Nicosia said the ban was lifted by Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

IRNA said foreign amateur boxers would travel to Iran to give Iranian boxers practice before they compete in the 1990 Asian games in Peking.

Iranian boxers would take part in competitions marking the 11th anniversary of the Islamic revolution in February.

After the 1979 revolution boxing was denounced as a violent practice inconsistent with Islamic moral codes, IRNA said.

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With special thanks to the Philadelphia Hotel for its hospitality

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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READ THE LEAD

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K Q 6 2
♥ 9 8 5 4
♦ Q 7
♣ J 5 3

WEST
♠ 7
♥ Q J 7 6
♦ K 10 8 5 2
♣ Q 6 4

EAST
♠ 10 4 3
♥ 3
♦ 9 6 4 3
♣ A 10 8 7 2

SOUTH
♠ A 9 8 5
♥ A K 10 2
♦ A Q
♣ K 9

The bidding:
South: West North East
3♥ Pass 2♠ Pass
3♦ Pass 3♠ Pass
4♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Seven of ♠.
Positive inferences can often be drawn from an opposing bid or play. However, even more information can sometimes be gleaned from why a player did not take some action. Call it "the dog that didn't bark in the night" syndrome.

South was certainly going to bid game once North raised spades. However, plan was a slight possibility if North held a magic fit, so South made a try with three hearts. When that brought no sign of interest from North, South settled for game.

Declarer drew the last trump with the king, retaining the five in hand, then led a low heart, inserting the ten when East showed out. West won, but had to do something to help declarer. He chose to exit with a club to his partner's ace. East switched to a low diamond, and the hand was at the crossroads.

Spurning the finesse and backing his card reading, declarer rose to the ace of diamonds, cashed the king of clubs and entered dummy with a trump to ruff a club. Then he exited with the queen of diamonds. West, who had to retain two hearts to guard against declarer's holding, was forced to win the king and lead a heart into declarer's tenace to surrender the last two tricks and the contract.

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PHILADELPHIA

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TWO MOON JUNCTION

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

NLJOM

Tel: 675571

Nadia Al Jundi In TERRORISM (Arabic)

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

PLAZA

Tel: 674111

Jack Nicholson & Kim Basinger BATMAN

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Tory challengers fire a warning shot at Thatcher

LONDON (Agencies) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has brushed off the first challenge to her 14-year leadership of Britain's ruling Conservatives but party rebels have fired a significant warning shot.

In a secret ballot of Conservative members of parliament Tuesday, Thatcher won 314 out of 374 available votes, against just 33 for her nearest challenger Sir Anthony Meyer.

But Meyer's tally, together with 24 abstentions and three unvoted votes, added up to an effective anti-Thatcher bloc of 60, nearly a sixth of the parliamentary party.

Thatcher appeared briefly outside her Downing Street residence to express satisfaction with her "overwhelming support".

Conservative Party Chairman Kenneth Baker said she was now secure as leader until the next election, due by 1992.

"What the Conservative Party has decided today is that they want Margaret Thatcher to lead them into the 1990s and into the next general election," he told a television interviewer.

Thatcher supporters cheered and banged their desks on hearing the ballot result and the largely pro-Thatcher tabloid press was jubilant.

"The unqualified message is: carry on, Maggie," said the Sun.

But other commentators saw the vote as a sign that Thatcher, the "iron lady" who has dominated British politics throughout the 1980s, is no longer invulnerable.

"There is a question mark

floating today above the prime minister which wasn't there a week ago...this is a more vulnerable prime minister than we have seen since the days of her Falklands triumph," said the liberal Guardian, referring to the 1982 war with Argentina.

"Less than a vote of full confidence, but less also than a notice to quit...it is a mandate to continue, not much more than that," wrote columnist Peter Jenkins in the Independent.

Meyer, a white-haired ex-diplomat and hereditary knight, never hoped to win more votes than Thatcher, leader since 1975.

But his eccentric and largely symbolic challenge provided a focus for discontent with her imperious leadership style and her confrontational stand over issues such as European Community (EC) integration.

The Conservatives trail the opposition Labour Party by 10 points in opinion polls and Thatcher's personal rating has sunk to all-time lows following a series of recent setbacks and mounting economic problems.

Political analysts say the way may now be open for a serious challenge next year from a heavyweight leadership contender.

Thatcher government policies are blamed for an annual inflation rate of 7.3 per cent, a falling pound and 15-per cent interest rates.

Ordinarily, support by 85 per cent of the majority party would have been regarded as an unassailable vote of confidence. But

in Thatcher's case it provoked conflicting assessments.

The Daily Mirror, a supporter of the opposition Labour Party which leads the Conservatives by up to 15 points in opinion polls, said Wednesday: "Margaret Thatcher's credibility... almost one in six of all Tory members of parliament cast an anti-Thatcher vote."

Even the Daily Telegraph, a Conservative supporter, said: "The result of the Conservative leadership election is unsatisfactory. If... Thatcher is to lead her party into the next general election (due by mid-1992), it can be in the interests of no one, but the opposition that she should be seriously weakened in the interim."

But the Times of London, which generally supports her, wrote: "Mrs. Thatcher can be satisfied... the total of 60 who did not support her constitutes little more than the widely predicted bedrock of dissident feeling — European extremists, disgruntled ex-ministers and others with a grievance of some sort."

Thatcher ousted former Prime Minister Edward Heath as party leader after the Conservatives under him lost the 1974 general election to Labour. She came to power when the Conservatives won the 1979 general election.

She is now in her third term as prime minister following Tory victories in the 1983 and 1987 general elections. She is the longest serving prime minister this century.

Bomb caused plane crash with 107, Colombia says

BOGOTA (Agencies) — An Avianca airliner that blew up with 107 people aboard last month was destroyed by a bomb placed in a seat near the fuel tanks, according to a Colombian cabinet minister.

All members of a crash investigation team agreed that the Boeing 727 was destroyed by a bomb, Minister of Government Carlos Lemos Simmonds told a news conference late Tuesday.

Lemos did not say who may have placed the bomb. But suspicion has fallen on drug traffickers who have bombed schools, hotels, restaurants and other public buildings since the government began an anti-narcotics crackdown last August.

Before the airliner was bombed, 201 bombs had exploded over the previous three months in major Colombian cities, killing 29 people and injuring 238.

Earlier, Lemos had suggested that drug traffickers were responsible for the Nov. 27 crash that killed all those aboard.

Authorities have said they believe the bombings are intended to pressure an end to extradition of drug suspects to the United States. Nine extraditions have taken place since August.

Colombia's house of representatives voted two hours after the release of the crash report to kill a proposal for a national referendum on the government's extradition policy, the radio network Caracol said.

A congressional committee had introduced the proposal on Dec. 1, maintaining that Colombians

should have the opportunity to decide if the policy should continue.

Traffickers had said in a message to a congressional leader that they were declaring a temporary truce in their terrorist campaign because they were confident that the congress would approve the extradition referendum.

The jet exploded minutes after taking off from Bogota's international airport on its way to the city of Cali.

A man had called the Caracol radio network and claimed responsibility for the crash on behalf of the Extraditables, a terrorist group linked to the Medellin cocaine cartel.

The man said the group destroyed the plane in retaliation for a police raid on the hideout of Pablo Escobar, a leader of the Medellin cartel, five days earlier.

Police said that they almost caught Escobar, who fled into the jungle while his bodyguards battled 300 police and army troops.

Caracol later said it doubted the caller's authenticity.

A Colombian judge probing Medellin drug cartel activity was shot to death Tuesday as he was walking home to lunch here, police said.

Bernardo Jaramillo, 46, died in machinegun fire sprayed by men in two vehicles as he was crossing a major intersection in an upper-middle-class neighbourhood in western Medellin.

He was the fourth judge to be assassinated in the past five months in Medellin, the hub of Colombia's cocaine trade.

President Virgilio Barco blamed drug traffickers Friday for the murders of more than 200 judges and judicial officials.

Jaramillo had been handling the case of a state police commander, Colonel Valdemar Franklin Quintero, who was assassinated shortly after dawn Aug. 18. Government officials blamed the chief's murder on drug-backed gunmen.

Ernesto Samper, a presidential candidate for the ruling Liberal Party, blamed the plane attack on drug traffickers and said they were on the verge of "overwhelming" the country.

Samper said in a live radio interview that the Barco administration should review the results of its 15-week-old campaign against drug traffickers to determine if it's worth the loss of innocent lives.

The government said that before the plane crash violence by drug traffickers had killed 39 people since they declared war on the Barco administration in August.

The house vote was a legislative setback for the government of President Virgilio Barco.

The house measure must now go to the senate, the upper chamber of congress, for consideration, according to government officials.

It was a setback for Barco, who had gone on television last Friday to urge congress to exclude extradition from the referendum.

He said drug traffickers would try to sway the vote against extradition, using money, terror and intimidation.

Aquino declares emergency

MANILA (Agencies) — President Corason Aquino declared a state of emergency Wednesday and pleaded for support against mutineers trying to overthrow her government.

"I am telling you now that I have put so much at stake for democracy. I have lost my husband," an obviously tired Aquino said in a nationally televised address.

Her husband, Benigno Aquino, was slain in 1983 as he returned from the United States to challenge the late President Ferdinand Marcos for power.

"Why did I become president? It was because you believed in me. And in spite of all of the coup attempts, you have stuck by me," she said.

The government later announced that Aquino had proclaimed the nationwide state of

emergency to give her broad powers to cope with the crisis, which started last Friday when thousands of mutinous soldiers launched a coup attempt.

The Philippine media were banned from reporting on loyalist troop movements, and two radio stations that had supported the rebels were closed down.

By late evening some 400 defiant rebels were still holding out in Manila's financial district after earlier allowing the evacuation of 5,000 Filipino civilians and foreigners trapped by the fighting.

A ceasefire was in effect for most of the day and appeared to be holding.

The rebels, who accuse Aquino of allowing corruption to flourish, agreed to discuss surrender and government negotiators said the talks were going well.

The talks began in the morning

as the civilians, including 1,900 foreigners, were evacuated in a fleet of buses and were expected to go on through the night.

In her emergency proclamation, Aquino said the coup — the sixth since she took office in 1986 amid massive displays of popular support — was causing "serious destabilisation."

"The rebellion has resulted in senseless loss of life, destruction of property and serious social-economic damage," said the 38-year-old widow.

More than 100 people have been killed since the coup began early last Friday, according to government estimates.

Presidential spokesman Adolfo Azuma told reporters the proclamation would pave the way for the Philippine congress to give Aquino broader emergency powers.

The state of emergency could be used to help control food supplies, he said.

"The emergency powers are needed after prices of food jumped up to 200 to 300 per cent," said Senator Santanilla Rasul.

Officials said the Senate Wednesday started discussing a law granting Aquino additional emergency measures.

Azuma was emphatic the state of emergency did not amount to martial law. "It is not a military measure, it is a civilian measure very much less than martial law."

Marcos, the president ousted by Aquino and a "people power" revolt, used martial law to prevent challenges to his rule. Marcos, who died in exile last August, was accused of looting billions of dollars in public funds.

Moscow rejects German reunification

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Soviet Union has flatly rejected West Germany's reunification programme, warning Bonn the plan could destabilise Europe.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze told his West German counterpart Hans Dietrich Genscher Tuesday that the plan could only increase the turmoil in Europe when a calm and balanced approach was needed, TASS news agency said.

The rejection harked back to the traditional Soviet approach to the question and contrasted sharply with a TASS article Monday suggesting Moscow was prepared to discuss German reunification despite major differences on the issue.

"Attempts to take advantage of difficulties...in socialist countries to serve...egoistic processes, without consideration for long-term European interests, might jeopardise...peace and stability in Europe," TASS quoted Shevardnadze as saying.

Genscher told a news conference Tuesday he had stressed to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev

that West Germany was not trying to erode either Eastern or Western security.

But Shevardnadze's comments would appear to be another setback for Chancellor Helmut Kohl's 10-point unity plan, which has already been coldly received by West Germany's allies.

"Shevardnadze considered in detail the so-called 10 points of Chancellor Kohl, stressing those which bordered on giving orders to East Germany," TASS said.

Kohl has said the plan would lead to a new federal state only after free elections and fundamental economic and political reforms in East Germany.

"The Soviet state considers it unacceptable to dictate to the sovereign state of East Germany how it should develop its relations with the other German state," Shevardnadze said.

"In this period all the sides concerned should show self-restraint...and should keep from interfering in the internal affairs of East Germany, a United Nations member, either by words or by deeds," he said.

The Kremlin is trying to keep up with the bewildering pace of change in East Germany and Shevardnadze's comments show Moscow is determined not to lose all control over the process.

Gorbachev told Genscher Tuesday that under the current circumstances of rapid change in Europe and improving relations between East and West, "it is especially important to support international stability and to strengthen security," according to TASS.

"This suggests self-restraint, responsibility and deliberation in actions from all states, and loyal cooperation on the basis of generally accepted principles," TASS said, paraphrasing Gorbachev.

At the weekend summit meeting in Malta, Gorbachev told U.S. President George Bush that "reunification gave the Soviet Union some problems that could push it too hard, too fast, could create some real tension," according to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Genscher said at the news con-

ference that he assured Gorbachev, "there is not going to be a separate German course."

He said German rapprochement would occur only within general European rapprochement, and "we will do everything to create stable, cooperative structures" to ensure the security of Europe.

Genscher refused to detail or characterise Gorbachev's response.

The Soviet Union, like some of West Germany's allies, fears a united Germany would dominate Europe economically and politically and has bitter memories of the suffering it endured during World War II.

Soviet people remember well the history, the tragic lessons of World War II," Shevardnadze told Genscher.

"Our public opinion is highly sensitive to everything that is borne upon its outcome and this should not be forgotten by anyone," he said. The Soviet Union says 20 million of its citizens were killed during the war.

Singh allocates portfolios to 15-member cabinet

NEW DELHI (AP) — Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh retained the Defence Ministry for himself as he allocated the portfolios for his new cabinet ministers Wednesday, news agencies reported.

The cabinet ministers took their oaths of office Tuesday but their portfolios were not immediately announced, prompting speculation of more internal feuds within a coalition whose main claim to unity was its opposition to ex-Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and his Congress Party.

The new foreign minister is Inder Kumar Gujral, a former ambassador to Moscow who has been away from politics for nearly a decade. Gujral, 70, served in cabinets headed by Gandhi's mother and predecessor as prime minister, Indira Gandhi. He held several ministerial posts in the late 1960s and early 1970s, including information and broadcasting, housing, planning and parliamentary affairs.

Gujral was India's ambassador to the Soviet Union from 1976 to 1980.

Singh's appointments were released by the presidential palace and reported by United News of India and Press Trust of India.

The key job of minister of home affairs went to a Muslim, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, signalling an effort by Singh to ease

tension between India's majority Hindu community and the Muslim minority.

Singh gave the finance minister's post to Madan Dandavate, a former physics professor who served as railways minister the only other time India had a government that wasn't dominated by the Congress Party — from 1977 through 1979.

Dandavate, 64, is prominent member of Singh's Janata Dal party, the major partner in the National Front coalition that unseated Gandhi in the Nov. 22-26 elections.

Singh's deputy prime minister veteran political boss Devi Lal, 75, was given the additional title minister of agriculture.

Singh, 58, must submit his government to a vote of confidence in the new parliament. Newspapers, including the Indian Express, which is sympathetic to Singh, have suggested the vote could take place Dec. 18 or shortly after.

The cabinet list released Wednesday consisted of 15 ministers. In addition, there were two ministers of state who do not have cabinet rank. One of them was Gandhi's estranged sister-in-law Maneka Gandhi.

Mrs. Gandhi, whose husband Sanjay crashed and died while stunt-flying a plane in 1980, was named minister of state for environment and forests. She is the only woman and, at age 33, the youngest minister named by Singh so far.

Another estranged relative of the ex-prime minister is in the cabinet, Arun Nehru. Nehru, a cousin of Gandhi's, was named minister of commerce and tourism.

In addition to defence, Singh retained these ministries for himself, at least temporarily: atomic energy, electronics, science and technology, ocean development. Gandhi also used to retain those ministries for himself throughout many of his 20 cabinet reshuffles.

The other members of Singh's cabinet announced Wednesday: George Fernandes, railways; Ajit Singh, industry; Sharad Yadav, textiles and food processing; Arif Mohammad Khan, energy and civil aviation; Ram Vilas Paswan, labour and welfare; Nilamoni Routray, health and family welfare; M.S. Gurupadaswamy, petroleum and chemicals; Parvathaneni Upendra, information and broadcasting and parliamentary affairs; K.P. Umakrishnan, surface transport and communications; Dinesh Goswami, steel and mines and law and justice; and Murasoli Maran, urban development.

Manohar Kotadiya was named minister of state for water resources.

Le Pen makes a new jibe

PARIS (R) — French ultra rightist Jean-Marie Le Pen contributed to a major television debate on immigration Tuesday with a new jibe against a government minister, asking him if it was true he held Israeli nationality.

Le Pen first used a word that evoked World War II Nazi raids, then asked a Jewish minister if he held dual French and Israeli nationality.

Leader of the National Front party, he has previously described Nazi concentration camps as a minor point of history and punned on a minister's name and Nazi gas ovens.

"All rather nauseous," said television anchorwoman Christine Ockrent after the latest jibe.

Le Pen, whose comments have in the past boosted his popularity in France rather than diminished it, is celebrating his party's victory in a by-election Sunday, giving the National Front its only seat in the 577-seat National Assembly.

Le Pen debated immigration with Junior Planning Minister Lionel Stoleru.

Stoleru, quizzed on the number of illegal immigrants in France, said he had frequently organised police operations to arrest foreigners without papers.

Le Pen replied: "Why don't you say raids?" using the French word "raids," which has clear implications of Nazi German raids during the occupation of France.

The right-winger then said: "Is it true that you have dual nationality... we have the right to know who you are."

The television commentator interrupted, saying: "I think things should be clear because Mr. Le Pen is using slightly coded language. Mr. Stoleru, are you Jewish?"

The minister, visibly shocked, replied that being Jewish was a religion, not a nationality.

Le Pen, saying Stoleru was president of the Franco-Israeli Chamber of Commerce, said he had been told the minister was also Israeli, but accepted his statement that he was French.

A French television commentator said Le Pen's apparent baiting

of the Jewish minister followed on from his previous remarks.

The Socialist government, shocked by Sunday's National Front victory in the city of Dreux, has been forced to harden its stance on immigrants.

Prime Minister Michel Rocard condemned the National Front. "For me the National Front party is political fundamentalism. It is truly incitement to hatred and violence," he said.

But he also promised a firmer attitude on illegal immigrants this year.

Rocard says there are 4.4 million foreigners living in France, and government officials admit that France's generous treatment for political refugees is widely abused.

Taiwan president promises reforms

TAIPEI (AP) — President Lee Teng-hui Wednesday promised to expand democratic reforms after the ruling Nationalist Party's setback in Taiwan's first multi-party election.

In Saturday's general elections, the Nationalist Party suffered its worst losses in 40 years in power. It lost several key local county executive posts in winning 58 per cent of the total vote, down from 70 per cent in 1986.

"It was a setback for our party as far as our original goal was concerned," said Lee, who also chairs the Nationalist Party.

"The decision made by the voters was not a coincidence," Lee told the party's decision-making central standing committee. "It indicates the various reform measures undertaken by the government in recent years had failed to meet the public's expectations."

Opposition supporters, meanwhile, ended four days of demonstrations against alleged vote fraud after the recounting of ballots from one county race began at the heavily guarded Taiwan district court in southern Taiwan.

During the election campaign, the opposition party accused the Nationalists of widespread vote buying and ballot box stuffing.

Those allegations were strongest in Taiwan, a largely agricultural county in southern Taiwan, where a Nationalist and an opposition Democratic Progressive Party candidate were in a close race for the county executive post.

Lee said the government had failed to solve such problems as worsening crime, declining social morale and "the authorities' declining credibility." He said these problems would be targeted by new reforms.

"We must learn our lesson from the setback. We must not hesitate any more," Lee said.

"We are more sure of our way and will take faster and more positive steps" towards various political and other reforms.

COLUMN

Playboy exposure for founder's bride

CHICAGO (R) — Playboy magazine has published a special edition featuring founder Hugh Hefner's new bride spread across 97 pages in various stages of undress. "Just in time for holiday gift giving," said the magazine in announcing the publication. Kimberly Conrad, the 26-year-old blonde from Vancouver, British Columbia, who became the 63-year-old Hefner's wife last June, has had previous Playboy exposure. She was on the cover in August 1988, the same year she was featured as "Miss January."

French train breaks rail speed record

TOURS, France (AP) — An ultra-modern train shattered the world record Tuesday for the highest speed on rails, rocketing along at 480 kilometres per hour, the French National Railway announced. The train, carrying no passengers, broke the previous record of 406.9 kilometres per hour set in May 1988 by an inter-city express locomotive in West Germany. The record was set on a section of track in the wine-growing Loire valley due to come into service next year with the TGV Atlantic service linking northwestern French cities with the sleek "train a grande vitesse" (high-speed train). The record-breaking TGV locomotive comprised two bullet-nosed engines pulling four cars, down from the usual 10 cars, the Societe Nationale des Chemins de fer (SNCF) said.

'Heaven on Earth'

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, founder of transcendental meditation and one-time guru to the Beatles, is proposing a city of immortals somewhere in Oklahoma to start building his vision of heaven on earth. Representatives of the Indian Guru have met with developers in Oklahoma City to discuss plans for a low-density housing community proposed by the Maharishi Heaven on Earth Development Corp. It is one of several such communities planned across the nation, backers said. Backers said the communities would be "noise-free, pollution-free and free from crime and anxiety." Scott Demaree, a stillwater builder who acts as Oklahoma liaison for the Malibu, California-based corporation, said it was hoped ground could be broken as early as April near Tulsa, Oklahoma City, or Stillwater, Homes, which would be set on a minimum one-acre plot, would range from \$60,000 to several hundred thousand dollars, Demaree said.

Vandals hit pet cemetery

WANTAGH, New York (AP) — A pet cemetery was vandalised, but its most famous grave, that of Richard Nixon's dog Checkers, was untouched, authorities said. "Mischievous kids" struck at the Bide-a-Wee cemetery on Long Island early Saturday and kicked over about 200 tombstones, said police officer Robert Feeley. The tombstone of the cocker spaniel immortalised in a speech by Nixon when he was a vice presidential candidate was among those spared. In his 1952 "Checkers" speech, Nixon rebutted charges that he illegally accepted gifts from wealthy supporters. He cited the black-and-white dog, a supporter's gift to his family, as one contribution he would keep. The family pet died in 1964 at age 12. No arrests were made in the vandalism.

Global weather (major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	WIND	MOON
AMSTERDAM	4	38	08	Cloudy
ATHENS	11	22	16	Clear
BAHRAIN	16	31	16	Clear
BANGKOK	18	64	61	Clear
BUEENOS AIRES	16	25	77	Fair
CARACAS	21	30	34	Cloudy
CHICAGO	01	38	07	Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	-01	30	05	Cloudy
FRANKFURT	-08	21	02	36
GENEVA	-01	30	07	34
HONG KONG	17	69	22	78
ISTANBUL	01	34	06	Cloudy
LONDON	07	45	10	30
LOS ANGELES	12	54	27	71
MADRID	06	49	11	52
MEXICO	24	75	29	84
MONTREAL	-19	00	12	Cloudy
MOSCOW	-1	28	16	Clear
NEW DELHI	07	44	23	74
NEW YORK	-05	23	00	32
PARIS	00	32	04	39
ROME	00	32	08	48
SEATTLE	16	50	22	71
TOKYO	09	48	18	64
VIENNA	-08	28	03	37

X - indicates missing information.

Freedom for 76m Germans — leaders go behind bars

By Ian Macdonald

Reuters

EAST BERLIN — Seventy-six million Germans have been given freedom to travel in both parts of their divided country for the first time in 45 years but East German leaders accused of corruption are ending up behind bars.